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# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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# Daily Report

## Near East & South Asia

*FBIS-NES-93-014* CONTENTS *25 January 1993*

**NOTICE TO READERS:** An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### Islamic Affairs

ICO Condemns Escalation of Fighting in Bosnia *[SPA]* ... 1
Islamic Human Rights Organization Established *[AL-SHA'B 19 Jan]* ... 1

### Palestinian Affairs

Qaddumi Says 'Arafat To Visit Mubarak Soon *[MENA]* ... 1
Teams Continue Work Despite Talks' Suspension *[AL-QUDS 22 Jan]* ... 1
More on 'Arafat Telephone Call on Peace Offer *[Algiers VOP]* ... 2
UN Sanctions Against Israel Called For *[AL-FAJR 22 Jan]* ... 2
Israel Urged To Reconsider Talks With PLO *[Algiers VOP]* ... 2
Rabin Invitation, Prospects for Clinton Viewed *[Algiers VOP]* ... 3
Al-Husayni on U.S. Administration, Other Issues *[Cairo International]* ... 4
AL-QUDS Identifies Evacuated Deportees *AL-QUDS [24 Jan]* ... 5

## ARAB AFRICA

### Algeria

Diplomatic Ties With Bosnia To Be Established *[Algiers TV]* ... 6
Military Officers Charged in Closed-Door Trial *[Algiers Radio]* ... 6
Trial Opens of 13 Accused of Murdering Gendarmes *[Algiers Radio]* ... 6
'Terrorists' From Biskra Come Before Military Court *[Algiers Radio]* ... 6
Socialist Vanguard Party Now 'Challenge Movement' *[Algiers Radio]* ... 7
Government Provides Mid-Term Economic Forecasts *[APS]* ... 7
Large Consignment of Smuggled Gold Seized *[Algiers TV]* ... 7

### Egypt

PLO, Israelis To Meet in Cairo 'Next Week' *[AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY]* ... 7
Israel Called Upon To Recognize PLO *[MENA]* ... 8
Al-Qadhdhafi Concludes Visit to Egypt ... 8
    Discusses Ties With Mubarak *[Cairo Radio]* ... 8
    Views New U.S. Administration *[MENA]* ... 8
    Meets With Foreign Minister *[Cairo Radio]* ... 8
    Holds Meeting With Mubarak 24 Jan *[MENA]* ... 8
    Statement on Talks *[MENA]* ... 9
    Ends Visit, Departs *[Cairo Radio]* ... 9
    Offers To Mediate Between Iraq, Egypt *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* ... 10
Reportage on Spanish Foreign Minister's Visit ... 10
    Solana Arrives in Cairo 24 Jan *[Madrid Radio]* ... 10
    Meets 'Amr Musa *[MENA]* ... 10
    Holds News Conference *[MENA]* ... 10
Mubarak Speech on 'Confrontation' of Terrorism *[Cairo Radio]* ... 11
Two Policemen Shot Dead by Suspected 'Extremists' *[AFP]* ... 12
Group Planning Attacks on U.S., Israeli Embassies Arrested *[Tehran International]* ... 12
Leader of 'Extremist Group' Arrested in Al-Fayyum *[MENA]* ... 12
Cut in U.S. Aid Linked to 'Lack of Support' for Iraq Policy *[AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY]* ... 13
    U.S. Memorandum Called 'Insolent Threat' *[AL-SHA'B 19 Jan]* ... 13

- Clinton Urged To Raise U.S. Image in Arab World *[AL-AKHBAR 20 Jan]* 13
- Clinton Takes Over World of 'Chaos', 'Challenges' *[AL-AHRAM 20 Jan]* 14
- Musa on U.S.'s Role in Talks, Iraq, Israel Visit *[MENA]* 14
- Bosnian Situation Said To Show 'Defect' in UN *[MENA]* 14
- Presidential Adviser Leaves for Talks in U.S. *[MENA]* 15
- Mubarak Phones King Fahd for Consultations *[Cairo Radio]* 15
- Iran Reportedly Preparing Air, Sea Strike *[AL-WAFD 20 Jan]* 15

### Sudan

- Al-Bashir Interviewed on Political Issues *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 21 Jan]* 15
- Cooperation With Iran in Training Denied *[Tehran Radio]* 17
- Fighting Breaks Out Between SPLA Factions *[AFP]* 17
- Somali National Movement Delegation Visits *[Omdurman Radio]* 17

## ARABIAN PENINSULA

- UAE, Iran Continue To Resolve Abu Musa Dispute *[Riyadh Radio]* 18

### Kuwait

- Officials Express Hopes for Clinton Administration *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 22 Jan]* 18
- Prime Minister Discusses Security, Iraqi Actions *[Kuwait TV]* 19
- Turkey's Demirel Arrives; Notes Friendship in Ties *[Ankara TV]* 19
- OPEC President Arrives for Talks on Oil Issues *[Kuwait Radio]* 19
- Islamic States Radio Organization Holds Meeting *[Kuwait Radio]* 20

### Saudi Arabia

- King Invites Afghan Mojahedin To Discuss Problems *[Riyadh TV]* 20

### United Arab Emirates

- Clinton Asked for 'Balanced' Position in Mideast *[AL-BAYAN 20 Jan]* 21
- Croatian Trade Minister Arrives on 2-Day Visit *[WAKH]* 21

## IRAQ

- Officials, Media React to Further Bombing 22
  - Diplomatic Heads Briefed *[INA]* 22
  - U.S. Aircraft Bomb in North *[Amman Radio]* 22
  - Latest Attack Called 'Unnecessary' *[AFP]* 22
  - U.S. Air Attack Said 'Contrived' *[INA]* 22
  - Area Said 'Completely Void of Any Missile Batteries' *[INA]* 22
  - 'Goodwill Gesture' Called For *[INA]* 23
  - Clinton Warned of Pentagon, CIA *[INA]* 24
  - Cabinet Briefed on Attacks Near Mosul *[Baghdad Radio]* 24
  - U.S. Plane Bombs in South 23 Jan *[Amman Radio]* 24
  - Ministry Denies Planes Fired Upon *[INA]* 24
  - Dialogue With U.S. Urged *[INA]* 25
- Clinton Urged To Seek Conciliation *[AFP]* 25
- 'Experts' Claim al-Rashid Hotel Strike Deliberate *[Baghdad Radio]* 25
- Hammadi Comments on Developments, Cease-Fire *[AL-DUSTUR 25 Jan]* 26
- Rebel Radio Says Attack on Regime Kills 96 *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 29
- Marshlands Shelled; Saddam's Units Deployed *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 29
- Kurdish Leader Cables Officials on Irbil Bombing *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 29

## ISRAEL

- Rabin To Visit U.S.; Clinton Pledges Cooperation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
- Ambassador on Expected U.S. Moves in UN, Aid *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30

- Press on Clinton's Middle East Appointments *[HA'ARETZ 24 Jan, etc]* 30
- First Public Israeli, Syrian Meeting in Berlin *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 32
- Rabinovich on Latest Syrian Statements on Talks *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 32
- Envoy to UN Assesses Chances of Sanctions *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
- British Helicopters Fly Out 17 Detainees 33
  - Arrive in Haifa *[CYPRUS NEWS AGENCY]* 33
  - Two Helicopters Return Without Deportees *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
  - Seventeen Deportees Brought Back *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
  - Thirteen Detaineees Returned to Israel *[Jerusalem TV]* 33
  - IRC Wants 4 Hospitalized *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
  - Mistakenly Deported Said Still in Camp *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
- Rabin Said Looking for Way Out of Deportation Problem *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
- Ben-Eli'ezer Supports Original Decision on Deportees *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
- Poll Shows Many Ministers Favor Deportee Compromise *[Jerusalem TV]* 35
  - Rabin Said Angry Over Survey *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 36
- Deputy Foreign Minister Discusses Deportations *[AL-AHRAM 14 Jan]* 36
- Rabin: Iran Could Have Nuclear Weapon in 10 Years *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39

## JORDAN

- King, Syrian President Discuss Arab Issues by Phone *[Amman TV]* 40
- Arabs May 'Lose Patience' if Attacks Persist *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 23 Jan]* 40
- U.S. Pro-Israeli Policy, Clinton Staff Viewed *[AL-DUSTUR 23 Jan]* 40
- Spanish Foreign Minister, Delegation Arrive 20 Jan *[Amman TV]* 41
  - Bin-Shakir Receives Delegation *[Amman Radio]* 41
  - Solana on Deportees *[Madrid Radio]* 41
  - Solana Optimistic About Peace *[Madrid TV]* 42
  - Talks Held With King Husayn *[Amman TV]* 42
  - Visit Concluded, Departure Reported *[Amman Radio]* 42

## LEBANON

- President al-Hirawi Cables Congratulations to Clinton *[Beirut Radio]* 43
  - Al-Hariri Message Noted *[Beirut Radio]* 43
- Further Reportage on Deportees' Situation 43
  - British Stand Criticized *[Beirut Radio]* 43
  - Physicians Examine Deportees *[VOM]* 43
  - Al-Rantisi on Repatriation Plans *[AFP]* 43
  - Deportees Returned to Israel *[AFP]* 43
  - Issue Will Complicate Talks *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 44
  - Red Cross Refused Entry *[Algiers VOP]* 44
  - Al-Rantisi on UNRWA Staff *[Beirut Radio]* 44
- Prime Minister Briefs President on Damascus Talks *[Beirut Radio]* 44
- Al-Hariri Denies Differences With al-Hirawi *[Beirut Radio]* 44
- Buwayz Returns From Tehran After Damascus Stopover *[VOL]* 45
- Israeli Soldier Killed, 2 Wounded in Attack *[Beirut Radio]* 45
- Israeli Artillery, Helicopters Shell South *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 45
- Resistance Member Dies Placing Bomb *[Beirut Radio]* 45
- Two Gunmen Kill PSP Official in Sa'd Nayil *[VOL]* 45
- Israeli Tank Shells 'Fundamentalists' House *[VOL]* 45
- Resistance Detonates Device Under Israeli Patrol *[VOM]* 45
- Hizballah Commentary Challenges U.S. To Stop Aiding Israel *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 46

## SYRIA

- Al-Asad Heart Attack, 'Critical Condition' Claimed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 47
  - TV Shows al-Asad Meeting With Spanish Minister *[Damascus TV]* 47
- Spanish Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit 47
  - Arrival Statement Reported *[SANA]* 47
  - Al-Shar', Spanish Counterpart Begin Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 47
  - Al-Asad Receives Solana 23 Jan *[SANA]* 47

- Further on Solana's Talks With al-Asad *[Madrid Radio]* 47
- Further Report *[Madrid Radio]* 48
- Solana Comments on Peace Process *[Madrid TV]* 48
- Vice President Confers With Solana *[SANA]* 49
- Al-Zu'bi Holds Talks With Solana *[SANA]* 49
- Spanish Delegation Leaves Damascus *[SANA]* 49

Israeli Violations of Jordan, Gulf Airspace Noted *[SANA]* 49

## SOUTH ASIA

### Afghanistan

- President Sends Congratulatory Telegram to Clinton *[Kabul Radio]* 50
- Rabbani Meets Pakistani, Iranian Ambassadors *[Kabul Radio]* 50
- Sayyaf Condemns Fighting Against Government *[Kabul Radio]* 50
- Further on Government-Hezb-e Eslami Fighting in Kabul 50
  - Technical College Captured *[Radio Message of Freedom]* 50
  - Government Forces Admit Defeat *[Radio Message of Freedom]* 51
  - Defense Ministry Source Cited *[Kabul Radio]* 51
  - 'Heavy Fighting' Rages *[Tehran Radio]* 51
  - Casualties in Missile Attack *[Kabul Radio]* 52
  - Over 600 Casualties in Fighting *[Tehran Radio]* 52
  - Heights Above Kabul Seized *[AFP]* 52
  - Iranian Embassy Hit *[Tehran Radio]* 53

### Bangladesh

- Opposition Leader Survives Assassination Attempt *[Delhi Radio]* 53
  - Others Injured at Rally *[AFP]* 53
- Burmese Refugee Repatriation Halted Indefinitely *[DAINIK ITTEFAQ 17 Jan]* 54
- Uniform Policy on Disarmament Advocated *[DAINIK ITTEFAQ 13 Jan]* 54

### India

- British Prime Minister Major Arrives for Visit *[Delhi Radio]* 55
  - Accorded Ceremonial Welcome *[Delhi Radio]* 55
  - Interviewed on Ties, Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 55
  - Foreign Minister Singh Comments *[AFP]* 58
  - Major Criticized for Visit *[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]* 58
  - Talks Held With Rao, Sharma *[Delhi Radio]* 59
  - Importance of Major's Visit Viewed *[NAVBHARAT TIMES 16 Jan]* 59
- Terror Plan on Major Visit, Republic Day Foiled *[AFP]* 60
  - Major 'Happy' With Security on Visit *[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]* 60
  - 'Major Tragedy' Averted *[Delhi Radio]* 61
  - Punjab Militants Say Arms From Pakistan *[Delhi Radio]* 62
- Muslim Board Urges Muslims to Celebrate Republic Day *[Delhi Radio]* 62
- Russian Envoy Comments on Yeltsin's Upcoming Visit *[Delhi Radio]* 62
- Yeltsin Greets Leaders, Urges Renewal of Ties *[Delhi Radio]* 62
- Indian Airlines Plane Hijacked in Lucknow *[Delhi TV]* 62
  - Hijacker Surrenders *[Delhi TV]* 62
  - BJP Calls Hijack 'Conspiracy' *[Delhi Radio]* 62
  - Communist Parties Condemn Hijacking *[Delhi Radio]* 63
  - BJP Denies Connection With Hijacking *[Delhi Radio]* 63
- One Killed in Surat, Indefinite Curfew Imposed *[Delhi Radio]* 63
- Tamil Nadu Blasts Damage Gandhi Statue, Offices *[Delhi Radio]* 63
- Protest Lodged Over Bangladesh Resolution on Ayodhya *[Delhi Radio]* 63

### Iran

- Friday Sermon Calls For Muslim Pressure on UN *[Tehran Radio]* 64
- Prayers Leader Scorns Clinton's Inauguration Speech *[Tehran TV]* 64

Commentary Says Clinton Has 'Clear Mission' *[Tehran TV]* ..... 65
Clinton's Foreign Policy, Statments Viewed *[Tehran Radio]* ..... 65
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets OPEC's Parra *[Tehran Radio]* ..... 66
Iranian, Afghan Officials Discuss Kabul Situation *[IRNA]* ..... 66
'Zionist Regime' Action on Deportees Viewed *[Tehran Radio]* ..... 66
Prosecutor General on Political Prisoners *[Tehran Radio]* ..... 67
Majles Approves Generalities of Budget Bill *[Tehran Radio]* ..... 68
Unchecked Energy Consumption Threatens Oil Exports *[IRNA]* ..... 68

**Pakistan**

Sharif Welcomes Major Proposal on Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* ..... 69
Sharif Supports Saudi Call for Afghan Talks *[Islamabad TV]* ..... 69
Afghan Peace Mission Fails To Make Progress *[THE NEWS 17 Jan]* ..... 69
Government To Take Measures Against Illegal Immigrants *[THE MUSLIM 19 Jan]* ..... 70
Hopes for Improved U.S. Ties Under Clinton *[THE PAKISTAN TIMES 22 Jan]* ..... 70
Two Explosions Kill 16, Injure Over 44 *[Islamabad Radio]* ..... 71
Ethnic Tension Mounts *[AFP]* ..... 71
Iranian Border Guards, Afghan Smugglers Clash *[AFP]* ..... 71
Iranians Said Kidnapped *[THE MUSLIM 22 Jan]* ..... 72

**Sri Lanka**

Premadasa Sends Felicitations to Bill Clinton *[Colombo International]* ..... 72
Colombo Signs Chemical Arms Treaty in Paris *[Colombo International]* ..... 72
Twenty LTTE Group Leaders Killed in Last 3 Weeks *[LANKAPUVATH 21 Jan]* ..... 73
Colombo Reports LTTE's Charges Against India *[Colombo International]* ..... 73
Clash Between Tamil Guerrillas, Soldiers Leaves 15 Dead *[AFP]* ..... 73

## Islamic Affairs

### ICO Condemns Escalation of Fighting in Bosnia

*LD2401235893 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2222 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] Jeddah, 24 January (SPA)—The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] has strongly condemned the deliberate escalation of the fighting in Bosnia-Hercegovina by the Serb side, and condemned their raids on UN ammunition depots in the regions protected by the United Nations in Croatia.

In a statement issued by the organization's secretary general today, Dr Hamid Algabid urged the UN Security Council to make an immediate impression of its action regarding the deteriorating situation by endorsing the use of force in implementing all the resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly concerning Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The statement said that the ICO secretary general has made contacts in an endeavor to call for the convening of the UN General Assembly to review the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina and the need for the implementation of UN General Assembly resolution 121/47 which, among other things, urges endorsement of adopting all the measures required to reinstate the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina's political independence, sovereignty, and territorial security and integrity, in addition to the lifting of the arms embargo in order to enable the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina to exercise its inalienable right of individual and collective self-defense in accordance with article 51 of the UN charter.

In another development, Dr Hamid Algabid received a message from British Prime Minister John Major concerning the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina. The message was conveyed by Michael Burton, deputy minister of state at the British Foreign Office, who reviewed many international and regional issues during his meeting with the ICO secretary general today.

### Islamic Human Rights Organization Established

*NC2401183093 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Jan 93 p 1*

[Text] The establishment of the International Islamic Human Rights Organization [al-munazzamah al-islamiyah al-'alamiyah li huquq al-insan] was announced on Thursday 14 January. Palestinian intellectual Munir Shafiq has been elected chairman, Sudanese attorney Fathi Khalil was elected secretary general, and Dr. Bashir al-Bakri was elected assistant secretary general. An 11-member executive committee has been elected and will be chaired by the organization's secretary general.

The organization adopted the International Declaration for Human Rights in Islam, issued by the International Islamic Council in London in 1980 and announced from UNESCO headquarters in Paris. Mahfuz 'Azzam [Labor Party Executive Committee member] has been chosen as a member of the Board of Trustees.

## Palestinian Affairs

### Qaddumi Says 'Arafat To Visit Mubarak Soon

*NC2501114393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1047 GMT 25 Jan 93*

[Text] Tunis, 25 Jan (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will visit Egypt during the next few days. He will hold talks with President Husni Mubarak and ranking Egyptian officials on political developments in the Middle East, efforts to resolve the Palestinian deportees' issue and return them to their homes, and efforts to push the Middle East peace process forward and remove it from its stalemate.

Faruq Qaddumi, alias Abu-al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, made his statement to MENA in Tunis.

He said the PLO does not want to stay away from Egypt too long, because, he added, we always confront many problems and come to Egypt to discuss these problems and listen to our brothers here who have had many experiences and the political power to influence events in the region.

Faruq Qaddumi said Egypt is a major Arab country, in a position to lead the Arab nation. We truly want Egypt to double its activities in this field, he said. Egypt supports Palestine and we see Egypt as a mediator between us and Israel. Egypt is one of the Arab sides concerned with finding a just settlement in the Middle East. Proof of this is that Egypt, the one with diplomatic relations with Israel, refused to sign the treaty banning chemical weapons. He proudly quoted Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, when he said: "Israel must first sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty."

Qaddumi said Egypt is sensitive to Arab security and to finding a way and a framework to preserve it. Egypt's stance is pan-Arab. We bless this stance and constantly coordinate with Egypt through the five-part framework [reference to Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, the PLO, and Egypt] to realize a just settlement of the Middle East crisis and to strengthen joint Arab action and solidarity. He pointed out that Egypt, led by President Mubarak, plays an important role in strengthening Arab solidarity and that the PLO supports it and the Arab League's efforts.

### Teams Continue Work Despite Talks' Suspension

*TA2201163493 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 22 Jan 93 p 3*

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, QUDS PRESS—Despite the fact that the Palestinian negotiating delegation and the PLO leadership have suspended participation in the bilateral and multilateral peace negotiations—awaiting Israel's implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799 to return the Palestinian deportees—the work of the technical teams is continuing. According to Samir Halilah, member of the Palestinian delegation to the multilateral talks economic committee and the official in charge of a development institution in occupied Jerusalem, a few days ago these teams ended a training course on negotiating and working as a leading team.

The continuing work of these teams and the preparation for negotiations have generated controversy among Palestinians, who fear that Israel might be able to resume the negotiating process without returning the Palestinian deportees to their homes.

Dr. Sari Nusaybah, who heads the technical teams, told QUDS PRESS that their job is to prepare blueprints for the future. Under this guideline, the planning must be raised to a higher level because it affects the Palestinian people's future regardless of whether there are peace talks or not. [passage omitted]

## More on 'Arafat Telephone Call on Peace Offer

*LD2201182193 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 Jan 93*

[Text] The brother president leader, Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, yesterday evening, Thursday, spoke to the people and government of Israel in a telephone message carried directly by Israeli TV in which he invited them to make peace.

The brother president called on the Israeli Government to recognize the dialogue with the Palestinian Liberation Organization, PLO, the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people. This came in a joint news interview with the Israeli peace activist, Abie Natan.

Brother Abu-Ammar has described Abie Natan as a brave man, because he has challenged the Israeli decision prohibiting contacts with the PLO and was subjected to prison more than once because of that. He added Abie Natan is visiting for the first time after the Israeli Knesset abolished its decision issued five years ago. The Israeli peace activist, for his part, said: The question of abolishing the decision was very difficult. I was prepared to spend another year in jail had I known that this decision was going to be abolished [sentence as heard].

On the post-decision era, he said: The door is wide open now for other people to talk with each other and to understand each other. Now the Israeli Government must talk to the PLO as the majority of the people in Israel are for dialogue with the organization. He explained that the peace process can be completed quickly if the dialogue was direct between the Israeli Government and the PLO.

## UN Sanctions Against Israel Called For

*TA2201182993 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 22 Jan 93 pp 1, 11*

[Editorial: "International Legitimacy in the Balance"]

[Text] At a time when the UN envoy is continuing his efforts with the Israeli Government to find a solution to the deportee problem, Israeli officials are escalating their hardline language and stubborn refusal to implement UN Security Council Resolution 799. This refusal has almost subjected the UN envoy to depression.

During his meeting with a Palestinian delegation yesterday, the UN secretary general's envoy affirmed that he did not find any flexibility in the Israeli position and that Israeli officials did not suggest any feasible solution on implementing the Security Council resolution.

Not only has Israel tried to thwart and obstruct the UN envoy's clearly defined mission, which is implementing the Security Council resolution, it has also gone beyond this by asking the envoy to delay drafting his report to the UN secretary general until the Israeli High Court issues its verdict on the so-called legality of the deportation.

Given this Israeli refusal, intransigence, and foot-dragging in implementing Resolution 799 and its attempts to dilute the deportee issue, the Security Council is now required to immediately adopt new and decisive measures against Israel to end this contempt for Security Council resolutions and international legitimacy. The Security Council must place Israel before a clear option—either it yields to Security Council Resolution 799, immediately cancels the deportation decision, and returns the Palestinian deportees to their homeland, or the Security Council will use Article 7 of the UN Charter and impose sanctions on Israel.

We understand that international legitimacy and compliance with its resolutions must be applied to everyone. We can never understand how the Security Council uses force to impose resolutions when some great countries wish so, while these same countries disregard the implementation of other resolutions if they are not compatible with their interests and whims.

The deportee issue now places international legitimacy in the balance. Either this legitimacy is merely a stick used only against some, or it is an approach that should be used in dealing with all countries. All this now is being put to the test.

## Israel Urged To Reconsider Talks With PLO

*LD2401234693 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In a way that would raise astonishment, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin rushed to reject the new invitation addressed by the brother leader Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to him on the night before last to meet with a view to discussing peace and how to achieve it. A spokesman for Rabin also rushed to announce yesterday morning that Israel will not negotiate with the PLO, but will negotiate with a Palestinian delegation from the occupied territories.

The official Israeli refusal to negotiate with the PLO, which we have often heard in the past, was not a surprise, nor was it a surprise to hear Rabin's spokesman, Gad Ben-Ari, separating the PLO from the negotiating Palestinian delegation. However, what is sudden and surprising is that the haggling should come to a rejection of the new Palestinian peace call, which Israeli television interrupted its program on the night before last in order to broadcast, after the law on banning meetings with the PLO was rescinded by the Israeli Knesset.

Meanwhile, the new U.S. Administration considered that the rescinding of the law would give a new impetus to the peace process. At a time when the Israeli Knesset dropped all pretexts that Israel had often put forward in the past to justify its refusal to talk to the PLO and left the door wide open to Palestinian-Israeli meetings and when only the Israeli Government remained opposed to talks with the PLO, what new pretexts could be posed by these meeting to justify its persistent rejection of talks with the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people or justify its rejection of the new Palestinian peace call, particularly since the current Israeli Government is the same on which the international community pinned its hope to carry out daring steps in the interest of peace? [passage omitted]

It has become clear to the whole world that the Palestinian hand has been extended for true peace, after the failure of all the slogans raised by Israel, one after another on the non-existence of anyone among the Palestinian people to talk to. While the Israeli Government denies that it is negotiating with the PLO, it is worth noting that Rabin himself and Israeli Foreign Minister Shi'mon Peres stated on the eve of the recent elections in Israel that the former Likud government was in practice negotiating with the PLO and that any attempt to deny that would have been tantamount to burying one's head in the sand, particularly since the peace efforts and the progress of talks since before the convening of the Madrid conference until now confirm that the Palestinian position demonstrated at the negotiating table was the PLO's position.

Now, after the failure of all the pretexts and slogans raised by Israel to avoid talks with the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, the new Palestinian peace call constitutes another opportunity for the Israeli Government to reconsider its position, if it is concerned about opening a path toward peace, achieving a breakthrough in talks and reaching a solution that would deal with all the aspects of the conflict, and not avoiding peace by putting forward formulae and proposals that express nothing in their essence except attempts to consolidate the existing reality by introducing some cosmetic touches. If Israel continues in its refusal to respond favorably to this Palestinian call, it will lose another historical opportunity to resolve the conflict.

## Rabin Invitation, Prospects for Clinton Viewed

*LD2201211393 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 Jan 93*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Once again, the Palestinian people have stressed, this time at the highest levels, their definite endeavor to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat announced, in a recorded telephone interview which was broadcast at the Israeli Knesset yesterday, that there was a time for war and that there was also a time for peace. He called on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and his government to halt the acts of hostility. We heard the Palestinian president say, through Israeli TV: From here I renew my invitation to the prime minister, Mr. Rabin, and to his government, for a meeting, a meeting of the brave, in order to bring about the peace of the brave. Future generations will say, if such a meeting takes place, that this is the event of the century, the entire century, and that we have managed to overcome all the obstacles blocking our way in order to bring about a real peace for our children and for their future.

This is not the first or the last time that the Palestinian leader has launched such an appeal in order to achieve peace, since peace, the peace of the brave, must happen between enemies. In this genuine appeal for peace, 'Arafat had an example in mind, namely de Gaulle of France [who accepted the need for peace talks with the Algerian resistance movement in 1959]. Nevertheless, so far 'Arafat has not managed to find someone like de Klerk of South Africa, since Prime Minister Rabin charged his press adviser to say, in reply to this invitation: The position of the prime minister and that of his government is still the same, namely that the PLO in Tunis has no place in the current peace talks under way in Washington.

Moreover, Rabin said, in another TV interview, to be broadcast in the Arab world today, that if the acts of violence were to stop in the territories, he would be ready to reconsider his decision on the deportees.

The Palestinians and their leaderships [plural as heard] consider the talks as a fateful issue, whose basic objective is to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. Peace can be built only with the enemies, while Rabin's government sees this as a temporary objective providing for an end to violence and acts of hostility and the preservation of the status quo. The logic between the two trends [as heard], since we have not said the difference between the two logics, is very wide and very deep and it goes as far as the difference between peace and capitulation. Such logic, which Rabin arms himself with, is only based on the logic of force and not on the force of logic itself.

Equally, the difference between the logic of force and the force of logic is just like the difference between the direction of force and force of the direction to resolve controversial matters.

While we notice that the Palestinian leadership is calling for reliance on the force of logic, we see that Yitzhaq Rabin is resorting to the logic of force. This is the sort of logic that has gone bankrupt in this new world, unless Rabin is relying on promises and guarantees that the Arab world is not aware of or about which it knows nothing.

The modern world believes in the unity of interests and in the need to resolve all the hot issues peacefully. Therefore, the Arabs believe that the UN Security Council resolutions must be implemented, even if they are not eventually in their interest. This is what happened regarding the Iraqi issue. Consequently, the Arab world considered the non-implementation by the UN of the Security Council resolutions as a duplicity in the logic and the position and a double-standard policy, and yet they have not decided to turn their backs on the UN. Now the question remains: why are the Israeli rulers turning their backs on UN resolutions and to the Security Council? Could they have done this without the support of the new administration of Bill Clinton, whose first move was to continue to raid Iraq? This move by Clinton is a sign to the entire Arab world that the language of the stick is still on, while we Arabs stress our appeal for dialogue. This is exactly what 'Arafat expressed in his invitation, which was received with arrogance by Rabin.

The latter relies on Bill Clinton and is not afraid of the changes in America. The monopoly over decisions or directions cannot remain forever in the hands of any given leader. This is the historical reality which (?national) or international public opinion respects. The logic of the Palestinian leadership corresponds to this general logic, and the logic of the Israeli rulers runs counter to it.

But paradoxically and ironically, the logic of the Israeli rulers is receiving every support, while the logic of the Palestinian leadership remains ignored. Therefore, the question which remains is: where is our world heading for and how? Is it heading toward the force of logic or towards the logic of force? Clinton has answered the question with his first move toward the Arabs and toward Iraq.

## Al-Husayni on U.S. Administration, Other Issues

*NC2301083193 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Telephone interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the consultative committee for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, in Jerusalem, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, carried during the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, we welcome you on Voice of the Arabs radio.

[Al-Husayni] Welcome to you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] In your opinion, what does the attempt by the Palestinian deportees yesterday to return to their homes represent?

[Al-Husayni] The objective primarily was to stress that these men must return to their homes and must continue their attempts to return in various ways, whether through physical attempts or through political attempts, which we are exerting great efforts to realize.

The second objective is that this issue must continue to draw international attention. We should not allow the Israelis to use time to cool interest in this process and ignore this unjust regional situation.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] You have met with the UN secretary general's envoy. Did you convey a message to the secretary general, and if so, what did it say?

[Al-Husayni] The message, of course, was that there is a Security Council resolution which Israel has not respected. Therefore, the Security Council needs to take other steps and stop using double standards altogether. The Security Council's behavior towards Israel should equal its attitude towards other countries accused of not having respected international legitimacy.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Are there any contacts taking place between you and the new U.S. Administration headed by President Bill Clinton?

[Al-Husayni] There are, of course, some contacts taking place on various levels. The objective is to try and hold official meetings to convey the Palestinian stand and find out the U.S. positions on numerous issues. This administration just took office. We will deal with it as the administration that presently is in power. We do not wish to deal with it on the basis of what was said during the elections. We will set the election campaign aside and deal with the new president as the President of the United States and not as president-elect. Therefore, we hope that their policy in this regard will respect international law and the laws of justice, and respect the known principles behind the peace process.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, on this open telephone line between Cairo and Jerusalem, what does the Israeli decision to lift the ban on contacts with the PLO represent?

[Al-Husayni] Actually, this is a previous decision which should have been adopted a long time ago. At any rate, it was not adopted until now. It is a positive step in the right direction, which comes perhaps a bit late; but it nevertheless is in the right direction. It is not enough, however, and we expect further practical steps by Israel.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] In other words, since this decision has been passed, will it have positive initiatives or aspects?

[Al-Husayni] As I already told you, this decision had been before the Knesset for a long time. In practice, the law was not being applied. It was violated and torn to pieces with respect to the reality on the ground. Therefore, what they have done is recognize a fact and a reality on the ground.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Are you taking any steps right now to prepare for the coming round of peace talks?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, action is taking place on all levels. Contacts are taking place with all countries, including some Israeli elements. I believe the Security Council has been asked to issue a new resolution if Israel does not change its stand regarding the first resolution.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Are there any initiatives to issue a new resolution?

[Al-Husayni] I believe the request has been made to the Security Council. However, I do not believe there will be a session before Monday [25 January] or Tuesday.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, what are your expectations regarding the Israeli High Court of Justice finding the deportation decision to be legitimate?

[Al-Husayni] Our experience with the Israeli High Court of Justice has not been very encouraging. In the first place, it often considers the political stand of the government, or what is called the issue of security, as taking priority over any other legal matters. This time, however, it is clear that there is a dangerous political issue and dilemma. We hope that this time the High Court of Justice will not disappoint us as it always has in the past, and that it will make a wise and courageous decision that will rescue the peace process.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] But Rabin has linked the return of the deportees to halting the intifadah and maintaining peace and security, according to his statements.

[Al-Husayni] Are we supposed to deduce from this that he is holding 415 hostages in the snow until the intifadah stops? Such action would only further inflame the intifadah.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, do you still cling to the link between the return of the Palestinian deportees to their homes and participation in the negotiations process?

[Al-Husayni] It is just not possible. It is impossible for us to enter the negotiations room as long as the situation remains as it is. This step would deal a fatal blow to the negotiations and peace process. If things continue as they are, it would be a final blow to the peace process, which would eliminate it for good.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, head of the consultative committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, we thank you greatly and always welcome you on the airwaves of the Voice of the Arabs.

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## AL-QUDS Identifies Evacuated Deportees

*TA2501113993 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 24 Jan 93 pp 1, 14*

[Text] Herewith is the list of names of the 17 deportees who were transferred to Marj 'Uyun Hospital or returned to Israel yesterday and the names of the deportees who, in solidarity with their colleagues, refused to return and remained in the return camp.

The deportees who were returned to Israel:

1. Akram Tal'at, 24 years old, from the Gaza Strip, student.

2. Yasir Mansur, 25 years old, from Nabulus, student.

3. Iyad Zayn-al-Din, 18 years old, from Nabulus, student.

4. Sa'id 'Amr, 31 years old, from Nabulus, accountant.

5. Hasan Mabhuh, 40 years old, from the Gaza Strip, dean of student affairs at the Islamic University.

6. 'Ali Taym, 29 years old, from the Gaza Strip, civil engineer.

7. 'Izz-al-Din Bashir, 41 years old, from the Gaza Strip, mechanical engineer.

8. Khalid al-Salibi, 19 years old, from the Gaza Strip, student.

9. Jawad Zayn-al-Din, 18 years old, from Nabulus, student.

10. Muhammad Salim Nimr, 24 years old.

11. Mahir Sadiq Karim, 26 years old, restaurant owner.

12. Mustafa Abu-'Arah, 23 years old, from Janin, mosque imam.

13. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Aruri, 31 years old, from Ramallah, merchant.

The deportees who were transferred to Marj 'Uyun:

1. Amjad al-Zamil, 22 years old.

2. Wa'il Hindiyah, 32 years old.

3. Husayn Abu-Kuwayk, 23 years old.

4. Zuhdi al-Tufayli, 23 years old.

The deportees who refused to return:

1. Mahmud 'Aqlan, 25 years old, from the Gaza Strip, taxi driver.

2. Na'im al-Ghul, 29 years old, from Ramallah, merchant.

## Algeria

### Diplomatic Ties With Bosnia To Be Established

*LD2001213193 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Jan 93*

[Remarks made at news conference by Algerian Government spokesman Messaoud Ait Chaalal on 20 January; place not given]

[Excerpt] [Begin Chaalal recording] The Algerian Government has decided today to establish diplomatic relations with the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina. This is an expression of the solidarity of the Algerian people, the Algerian Government, and the Algerian state with this sister Islamic republic which is defending its sovereignty and territorial integrity. [passage omitted] As regards Iraq, you heard the official statement made by Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi. It expressed the concerns of the Algerian Government and people. We are in principle against solutions by force. We believe that all problems within the international context can be solved by way of dialogue. [end recording]

### Military Officers Charged in Closed-Door Trial

*LD2401131293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] A total of 20 military men and one civilian appeared before the Ouargla military court today, charged with conspiring against the military authority and contravening the general laws of the army. Ouargla correspondent Ali Jeridi has the details on today's first session:

[Jeridi] In its first session, the court looked into the case of five officers out of the 21 persons charged with undermining public order and contravening the laws of the National Army. These five, among whom there is a civilian who teaches in a secondary school, having ended his military service, were charged with attempting to undermine the leadership of the National Army, contravening military instructions and orders, and inciting to rebellion inside and outside the military barracks. They were also charged with not reporting an offense. After the opening of the session, the charges were read out to the accused in the presence of their defense lawyers, some of their relatives, and representatives of the national press. The military public prosecutor then asked to intervene. Quoting Article 285 of the criminal procedures law and Article 135 of the military law and stressing the seriousness of the acts attributed to the accused, the special character of the session, the gravity of the facts, and the need to preserve the security and secrecy of the National Army, the military public prosecutor requested that the sessions be held behind closed doors and that the court be cleared. The defense, represented by Aberrezak Alaoui, asked that the sessions be held in public to uphold the principles of justice and openness.

After deliberations, the court decided to hold the rest of the trial behind closed doors. Consequently, reporters were asked to leave, and they will not be allowed back in until the end of the trial and the announcement of the sentences.

### Trial Opens of 13 Accused of Murdering Gendarmes

*LD2401231893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] The trial of about 30 soldiers and civilians accused, among other things, of plotting against national defense, opened in Ouargla this morning. The Ouargla military tribunal is also to try another affair, the case of the gendarmes killed in Ksar el Hirane in Laghouat [on 1 January 1993]. Yesterday, the magistrate questioned 13 persons implicated in this crime. Habiba Hameche has more:

[Hameche] [passage omitted] Another important case: the questioning yesterday by the magistrate of the same court, that's to say in Ouargla, of 13 persons implicated in the killing of five gendarmes of the Ksar el Hirane brigade in Laghouat. They are accused of forming an armed gang, entering a military site, murder, and violation of the authority of the state. The 13 accused have been placed under a committal order. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Another trial awaited by public opinion is that of Major General Belloucif. The trial is supposed to open on [date indistinct] ('February) ('before the Blida court). [Reporter's name indistinct]:

[Correspondent] The former secretary general of the Ministry of National Defense Belloucif is accused of embezzlement of public funds and dissipation, according to a reliable source close to the Blida military court. The retired major general could be sentenced to life imprisonment, in accordance with Article 119 Paragraph 5 of the penal code.

Former President Chadli Benjedid, who has been questioned in this case by the magistrate, could be summoned as a witness during the trial, according to the same source. Three of the seven villas owned by Major General Belloucif in ('Berhoum), el-Biar, and another in Annaba are to be confiscated, still according to the same source.

### 'Terrorists' From Biskra Come Before Military Court

*LD2501084893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 25 Jan 93*

[Text] A group of terrorists belonging to the Islamic armed movement active in the Biskra region was apprehended 10 days ago and referred to the military court yesterday. The most important charges against the detainees, numbering 18, are the formation of an armed group and infringing on the security of the state.

## Socialist Vanguard Party Now 'Challenge Movement'

*LD2301151393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Excerpt] The Socialist Vanguard Party will be transformed from today into a new political movement called the Challenge Movement. More details from correspondent Karim Slimani in Sidi Ferruch:

[Slimani] Henceforth, the Socialist Vanguard Party will be transformed into a new political movement; the congress has unanimously agree to call it the Challenge Movement. This movement will espouse progressive, modern, and democratic ideals. The new movement will be open, according to resolutions adopted, to all progressive and modernist forces. As far as its organizational aspect is concerned, the new resolutions have abandoned the old structures and created a Provisional National Council, which would include 51 members and has full authority to head the movement's provisional leadership, which should, for the next one and half years, prepare for the next congress of the movement. The Provisional National Council will be helped in its tasks by another body called the Executive Committee. It is noteworthy to mention that the Political Bureau and the Central Committee, which stemmed from the previous constitution, are no long there. Also, the leadership will be collegial; the new constitution did not stipulate the need to nominate an official in charge of or a coordinator for the new movement. [passage omitted]

## Government Provides Mid-Term Economic Forecasts

*LD2501114293 Algiers APS in English 1022 GMT 25 Jan 93*

[Text] Algiers, Jan 25 (APS)—The fall of borrowings, the reduction of the debt stock and the debt/exports ratio, and the positive evolution of the internal gross production are the main Algerian economic prospects in the mid-term as forecast by the government for the 1993-1995 period, APS learned from the milieux concerned. According to these estimations of conjuncture, the service of the debt will decrease from 9.42 billion dollars in 1992 to 7.66 billion dollars in 1995. The ratio service of the debt/exports will fall from 77.8 per cent in 1992 to 55.2 per cent in 1995. Borrowings in the mid and long run would fall from 7.07 billion dollars in 1992 to 4.05 billion dollars in 1995. For the commercial balance, the exports which were 12.11 billion dollars in 1992 will decrease to 12.04 billion dollars in 1993 and then increase to 13.87 billion dollars in 1995. Imports will also increase from 9.93 billion dollars in 1992 to 11.28 billion dollars in 1995. During this period, the commercial balance will witness a positive excess of more than 2 billion dollars.

The stock of the external debt which was 25 billion dollars in 1992 will decrease by at least 7 billion dollars in the forthcoming years would represent 24 per cent of the internal gross production in 1997 in comparison with 56 per cent in 1992. In addition, the increase of the money in circulation will witness a notable decrease by 1997.

As for the exchange reserves, the objective is to limit their fall for 1993 and 1994 to 400 million dollars and have a level of reserves equivalent to three months of imports. The latest estimations gave the figures of 1.6 billion dollars. Concerning the crude internal production, it could increase by an average rate of 2 percent a year in 1993 and 1994 and by more than 6 per cent between 1995 and 1997, in the beginning of this period, the growth will mainly happen in the fields of agriculture (4 per cent) and public building (6 per cent). It is worth recalling that in its program for 1993, the government forecasts an important relaunch of investments in order that development can be, starting from 1995, "significant".

## Large Consignment of Smuggled Gold Seized

*LD2301215293 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Excerpt] Pure gold weighing 46.5 kg has been seized in the port of Algiers. Fifty gold ingots were valued at 1,985,000,000 centimes. These ingots were hidden in the tank of a Peugeot 405. The car came from Marseilles on board the French ship Napoleon. This was at 1500 on Wednesday when Customs discovered this smuggling attempt. [passage omitted]

# Egypt

## PLO, Israelis To Meet in Cairo 'Next Week'

*NC2301112993 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1031 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Cairo will be the venue next week of the first expanded meeting between a PLO delegation chaired by Yasir 'Arafat and including a number of prominent members in the Palestinian leadership, and an Israeli delegation consisting of Israeli Knesset members. This meeting will take place in the wake of the Knesset's decision at the end of last week to lift the ban on contacts with the PLO.

Informed Palestinian sources told an AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY correspondent that a decision was taken to convene this meeting at the beginning of next week. Expanded meetings will take place over a period of two days between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations to study in depth a number of important issues.

The Palestinian sources added that the members of the Israeli delegation recently informed the PLO that they currently are exerting concerted efforts to convince some officials and advisers of the Rabin government as well as Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to attend the expanded

Cairo meeting as a first step toward direct dialogue between the PLO leadership and Israeli Government officials.

The sources said this meeting will be followed by further rounds in Tunis and Cairo during the coming weeks between PLO leaders and a number of prominent figures in Rabin's government and the Knesset.

### Israel Called Upon To Recognize PLO

*NC2501092393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 25 Jan 93*

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jan (MENA)—AL-AHRAM calls on Israel to take a short cut and admit that the PLO is the party entitled to make the final decision on Palestinian self-determination.

In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM refers to the Knesset decision to lift the ban on contacts with the PLO, noting that it took Israel a long time to adopt that decision; the ban was imposed in 1986 with a view to excluding the PLO from everything involving Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The paper notes that remarks by the Israeli Government spokesman indicate an intention to deal with the PLO gradually. The spokesman announced that Israel still refuses to recognize the PLO as a negotiating party in the peace process and that this right will continue to be exclusive to the representatives of the West Bank and Gaza.

AL-AHRAM concludes that this stand almost insinuates that Israel is saving the PLO for later. The paper bases this conclusion on remarks by the Israeli energy minister, who said the Knesset decision is tantamount to implying that once the transitional autonomy [al-hukm al-dhati] phase expires and an understanding on a final settlement is reached, the PLO will play a role in the negotiations.

### Al-Qadhdhafi Concludes Visit to Egypt

#### Discusses Ties With Mubarak

*NC2201221093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 22 Jan 93*

[Text] President Husni Mubarak and Libyan revolution leader brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi held a working session at the Presidential Palace this evening. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that the meeting is a continuation of the talks that have taken place in the past two days. He noted that during the meeting, the two leaders discussed a number of issues relating to bilateral ties. They touched on cooperation and coordination in a number of areas and ways of promoting ties in keeping with the special relations that exist between the two fraternal peoples.

President Mubarak hosted a banquet at the Presidential Palace in honor of brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and his accompanying delegation. Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi; Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and agriculture minister; and the ministers of transport, communications, defense, information and finance attended the banquet.

#### Views New U.S. Administration

*NC2301130793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, held a round of talks at noon today at al-Qubbah Presidential Palace which lasted almost one hour.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, director of the Presidential Office's Press Department, made a statement after the meeting that the two presidents reviewed a number of international issues and developments in the regional situation.

The two presidents also reviewed U.S. political trends in view of the new U.S. Administration under Bill Clinton. They also discussed the U.S. secretary of state's possible visit to the region next month to learn about the Middle East's problems in preparation for continuing the U.S. role in the peace process and efforts to resolve the region's problems.

#### Meets With Foreign Minister

*NC2301131693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi met at al-Qubbah Presidential Palace with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. 'Adil 'Izz, minister of state for scientific research.

After the reception, Musa made a statement that he met with the brother colonel to greet him because he was not here when the visit began. He said: We discussed a number of issues of interest to the Arab world.

#### Holds Meeting With Mubarak 24 Jan

*NC2401084593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0820 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a round of talks this morning with brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, over a working breakfast banquet which Mubarak gave in honor of al-Qadhdhafi at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis. The members of the Egyptian and Libyan delegations attended.

Mubarak then continued his talks with al-Qadhdhafi in an expanded session of talks at the Presidential Office. [passage omitted]

### Statement on Talks

*NC2401124693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated following the expanded meetings between the Egyptian and Libyan delegations chaired by President Husni Mubarak and Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi that the two leaders discussed numerous international issues and world developments and how these developments affect the region, Arab affairs, and bilateral relations.

In statements following the talks, which lasted nearly two hours, the information minister said the two leaders asserted the importance of coordination to deal with international changes. The talks were held within the framework of the fraternal, distinguished, and special relations linking the two peoples. The information minister said the talks dealt with a number of issues on the bilateral level in various fields. He said President Mubarak affirmed the importance of supporting bilateral projects, especially industrial and agricultural integration projects, to bolster mutual interests and strengthen ties that realize the hopes of the two peoples.

He also affirmed the importance of linking the two peoples by rail and other means of transportation to increase the flow of people and trade between the two countries.

Al-Sharif added that this in itself is a realization of the hopes and ambitions of the fraternal peoples to progress along the path of solidarity and to unify joint action at all levels.

The information minister said that cooperation in a number of fields was discussed, foremost of which was transportation and communications and finalizing feasibility studies on the project to link the two countries by rail.

He pointed out that agreement was reached to set up a joint Egyptian-Libyan company to implement the railway line, in addition to building a highway between the two countries and increasing the capacity of microwave communications, thus providing telephone and other communication services between the two countries.

Al-Sharif said they also discussed agricultural cooperation, specifically the range of Egyptian agricultural and land reclamation companies operating in Libya. They also discussed problems facing the settlement of Egyptians in the Libyan Jamahiriyah. In addition, agricultural cooperation, combating locusts, and other such issues of bilateral agricultural interest were discussed, including setting up joint agricultural companies in either country using Libyan or Egyptian capital.

Al-Sharif said that both sides also discussed the industrial sector, projects concerning commodities used for major industries, and joint cooperation on an Egyptian-Libyan-produced car.

President Mubarak noted the importance of joint cooperation in all industrial fields, stressing that industrial integration is in the interests of both peoples.

Al-Sharif noted that in the media domain, the two sides discussed the importance of promoting and bolstering means of communications so that the flow of information can be exchanged between the two countries on all levels through the use of telecommunications and satellites.

In the field of electricity, the two sides discussed the establishment of joint electric projects, an electric grid between Egypt and the Arab Maghreb, and participation in the industrialization of power plants by the two companies that manufacture electric parts. Al-Sharif said that the two sides discussed the obstacles and problems facing this reciprocal deal between the two countries and the importance of solving these problems.

Al-Sharif noted President Mubarak's emphasis that peoples can be linked through joint work, agricultural integration, and linking the citizens' common interests. He noted that connecting the citizens' interests and implementing transportation and communications projects would enhance solidarity and efforts to achieve the unity which both peoples seek.

Al-Sharif pointed out that brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi expressed the Libyan people's feelings of love for their brothers in Egypt, their appreciation for President Mubarak, and their support for Libya and for President Mubarak's backing of joint action to promote the interests of the two peoples to fulfill their aspirations and link their common interests. He said that the Libyan secretary of industry and energy will extend his visit to Egypt to meet with his Egyptian counterpart to resolve certain issues proposed during the meeting on industrial, petroleum, and energy cooperation.

### Ends Visit, Departs

*NC2401103793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] The official send-off ceremony for brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, was held at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis this morning. President Mubarak led those who bade him farewell. The national anthems of Egypt and the Libyan Jamahiriyah were played. The two leaders then reviewed the honor guard.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi; the ministers of planning, agriculture, foreign affairs, information, transportation, electricity, industry, cabinet affairs, and scientific research; the mayor of Cairo; and ranking state officials also saw the colonel off. President Mubarak then shook hands with the brother colonel. The brother colonel's motorcade and his accompanying delegation then went by road to Marsa Matruh after a one-week visit to Cairo.

### Offers To Mediate Between Iraq, Egypt

*JN2401181893 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Report by Mustafa Bakri from Cairo]

[Text] Libyan Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi left Cairo for home today after an eight-day visit. Al-Qadhdhafi discussed with Egyptian leaders the region's developments, ways to solve the Libyan crisis with the West, and the conditions of the Egyptian workers in Libya.

Well-informed diplomatic sources say that al-Qadhdhafi offered to mediate between Cairo and Baghdad but the sources added that Cairo continues to adhere to its position toward Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's Government.

Al-Qadhdhafi also discussed ways to restore normal ties between Egypt and Sudan and to convene a new meeting between the two countries' joint committee to discuss the Hala'ib border dispute.

During his talks with Mubarak, al-Qadhdhafi called for overcoming inter-Arab differences and holding an urgent Arab summit to adopt a unified stand in facing Western attacks on Iraq and Israel's attitude toward the issue of the Palestinian deportees.

On the Lockerbie issue, the sources said that the two leaders agreed that Egypt would continue mediation efforts aimed at ending the Western dispute with Libya and lifting the economic and military embargo imposed on it.

## Reportage on Spanish Foreign Minister's Visit

### Solana Arrives in Cairo 24 Jan

*LD2401143493 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Excerpts] Today Foreign Minister Javier Solana and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will certainly talk about the problems between Israelis and Palestinians. Solana is now on the last leg of his tour of the Middle East region. Good afternoon, Gloria del Campo, correspondent in Cairo.

[Del Campo] Good afternoon. Although Minister Solana does not want to say so, during his tour of these three Middle East countries [Jordan, Syria, Egypt] he could be trying specifically to find a solution to the problem of the Palestinians in Southern Lebanon deported by Israel, which threatens to block the Arab-Israeli peace process. [passage omitted]

Spanish Foreign Minister Solana is handling the subject with maximum discretion, but he said that he recently had talks with the former Israeli Ambassador in Spain, Shlomo Ben-'Ami, in Madrid prior to his present trip. The former ambassador—like Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin—is of the Labor Party. Solana said that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is meeting the EC 12 in a few days' time—on 1 February in Brussels.

The minister arrived in Cairo at midday today from Syria, where political observers and journalists commented to me in Damascus that they believe that Minister Solana was conducting a mission to this end. Spanish diplomatic sources have not denied it.

Minister Solana will be discussing in Cairo, as you said, the Middle East peace process specifically, as well as bilateral relations, because Egypt plays a very important role as an intermediary between the Israelis and the Arab countries. Therefore, Minister Solana hopes that this visit of his to Cairo will be very fruitful.

### Meets 'Amr Musa

*NC2401151093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana arrived in Cairo from Amman at noon today on a two-day visit to Egypt as part of a tour that included Syria and Jordan.

Talks between the two sides will begin later today and will be chaired by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Solana. The talks will deal with the situation in the Middle East in light of the recent changes in the region and the Palestinian deportees. The two sides will also discuss Europe's role in the peace negotiations, security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region, and bilateral relations.

The Spanish foreign minister will visit tourist and historical sites in Cairo and Giza.

[Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic at 1230 GMT on 24 January carries a report on Solana's arrival that adds: "Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, and Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana met today at Cairo airport. Musa said the meeting focused on the Palestinian deportees. The conferees stressed the importance of their return and the implementation of Security Council Resolution 799."]

### Holds News Conference

*NC2401212393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2055 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana held a news conference tonight.

At the start of the conference, Musa said that the Egyptian-Spanish talks focused on the Middle East peace process and Spain's role in moving it forward. Musa added that they discussed the Palestinian deportees, the effect of the issue on the peace process as a whole, the international situation, and the situation in Europe in general and in Bosnia-Hercegovina in particular.

Foreign Minister Musa said: The Serbs' practices in Bosnia-Hercegovina make us doubt that a peace can be reached. He stressed that Egypt is unhappy with Serbian actions in Bosnia-Hercegovina, particularly the policy of ethnic cleansing, which violates international laws and charters approved by the international community. He stressed that the international community must end these Serb practices and respect the sovereignty and independence of Bosnia-Hercegovina. He added that Serbian actions have dismayed the entire world, not only the Arabs and Muslims. He stressed that Egypt supports the achievement of peace in former Yugoslavia on the proposals accepted by the concerned parties, not by imposing control by force or by forcing the Bosnians to accept a fait accompli or a solution that falls short of obtaining their full independence and self-determination in their territories without racial or religious discrimination.

Spanish Foreign Minister Solana said he came to Egypt as part of a Middle East tour that included Syria and Jordan. He said that Spain agrees with the Egyptian stand on the Middle East crisis and on strengthening cooperation among Mediterranean Sea countries. He said that the peace process is going through a critical stage due to the difficulties facing it, especially the issue of the Palestinian deportees.

Solana described Egyptian-Spanish relations as "excellent." He expressed the hope that the United States will continue to support the peace process until a solution is reached that will achieve security and stability in the Middle East. He stressed that his country will work to ensure the success of the peace process in view of its Security Council membership.

In reply to a question on the current situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Solana said his country hopes a solution will be reached and the fighting will stop. He added that the danger still exists in this region despite a ray of hope.

### Mubarak Speech on 'Confrontation' of Terrorism

*NC2501122593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0902 GMT 25 Jan 93*

[Speech by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on Police Day at the Police Academy in Cairo on 25 January- live]

[Excerpts] Dear brother and son members of the police force: Today we celebrate police day, which was a great day for Egyptian patriotism and clear testimony to our great people's insistence on one of their greatest cultural values, that of giving and of loyalty. The elite of Egypt's sons gave, in any circumstance, to put the greater interests of the homeland above all others, proving that they never hesitate in the face of the strongest challenges for the sake of duty and that they rush to sacrifice their lives in defense of the homeland's security and the people's safety. By so doing, they deserved to be placed on a higher level and to be looked upon with pride and appreciation by the people. The loyalty was shown by this genuine people, who never forget to give credit to those who excel in their work and never underestimated those who made sacrifices and withstood many sufferings for their sake. They elevate the Egyptian police, who suffer so that the people can be happy, spend sleepless nights so that the people can live in safety, and sacrifice their lives to let the people live. [passage omitted]

It is only fair to say that Egyptian streets are safer and more secure and that the criminal phenomenon that threatened the citizens, their lives, and money has retreated because the police are vigilant, quickly facing up to those who violate the law, specially when it comes to intimidating the people and threatening their safety and security.

When Egyptian society stood up to barbaric terrorism, which contradicted the Egyptian values and spiritual teachings that safeguarded man's march on pure Egyptian soil for decades, the police were at the forefront of the powers that stood up to the serious danger firmly and resolutely. [passage omitted]

The procession to bid farewell to the victims of terrorism, the police, soldiers, and officers, was glorious and magnificent. It expressed the true feelings of these great people. It was like a free and spontaneous referendum, in which the masses renewed their full confidence in the Egyptian police and emphasized their support for it as it performs its national mission and its sublime message. The masses raised their voices to reject terrorism and denounce killing, bloodshed, and the violation of sanctities, because they are atrocities alien to the Egyptian nature, the armor that protected the march on the banks of the safe valley over more than 70 centuries.

It has become clear to all that ignorant terrorism now faces a decisive confrontation with the people in all their groups and elements, not only with the state and its institutions. It is high time terrorists realized they are swimming against history and in a direction opposite to the Egyptian people's movement on the road to renaissance and progress. This confrontation will be settled in favor of right and justice, against aggression and injustice, in favor of a life full of achievements, renovation, and creativity and against death, isolation, and collapse. People's destiny cannot be decided by renegades who infected Muslim nations at different periods. The vast majority of the masses should decide this destiny. [passage omitted]

It must be a comprehensive and all-out confrontation. We must trace terrorism inside and outside the country. We must nip the sedition in the bud to safeguard our present and future and our right to a safe and dignified life.

Brother and son soldiers and officers of the police, ladies and gentlemen, the national mission you perform with courage to safeguard stability all over Egypt is a sublime mission that takes priority over all others. Stability is the basic element to guarantee life, safeguard progress, and protect the national entity against foreign ambition and aggressive schemes. Without stability there would be no production or construction; foreign and local investment would cease and, accordingly, we would be unable to create the new job opportunities that we urgently need for around half a million Egyptians who enter the job market annually. This would increase the burden on the Egyptian family as we endeavor to relieve it of that burden and keep it within the limit that suits families' resources and agrees with their priorities. Without stability, democracy cannot flourish. On the contrary, it would suffer a setback, because lack of stability leads to chaos, which contradicts democracy, which cannot emerge or flourish in a vacuum. Democracy requires a quiet and safe climate, in which every individual knows his duties and responsibilities toward himself, his family, and homeland. [passage omitted]

The major duty of those who carry the banner of democracy is to protect social and economic stability, because this is the only way to establish the democratic structure that takes its form by accumulating positive steps in the various aspects of Egyptian life. This requires the consolidated efforts of all honest citizens, whatever their positions. [passage omitted]

If the basic rights of the masses are threatened, we can never say that human rights are safeguarded and respected. If a small minority seeks to give itself the right to undermine the security and stability of the majority, it will have committed a major sin against society and the homeland. [passage omitted]

The responsibility undertaken by the men of the Egyptian Armed Forces is also great. They are the heroes who honored their pledges and sacrificed their lives for God and the homeland to defend every inch of good national soil and the rights of every Egyptian citizen to live in safety and progress. You perform your duty with dedication and self-denial as you see another group of loyal sons of Egypt in whom we take pride. These are the men of the judiciary, the defenders of justice, and enforcers of law and legitimacy. [passage omitted]

Brothers, the wheel has turned in the right direction. No one can push it back. The ray of hope appearing on the horizon is stronger than the powers of backwardness and chaos. This is the Egypt of civilization, of tolerance and faith, of thought and culture, and of the enlightenment that rejects rigidness and backwardness. Trembling hands will not undermine the great achievements the great signs of which stand tall on every inch of that soil. [passage omitted]

Egypt today is better off than yesterday. With God's help it will be better tomorrow. [passage omitted]

There is no room for desperation or for advocates of frustration, because the homeland's march is going in the right direction; it forges forward, is strong and fully confident. Our ability to cope with the burdens of the future grows daily. We perform our duty purely for the sake of God and the homeland. Our hearts are free from personal interests and our hands are extended to every hand that seeks to build. We seek the help of the best and try to make the best of their talents. We seek the help of every citizen and the advice of every loyal man. I pray to the omnipotent almighty to guide us to right, to enlighten those who do not see clearly, to keep us on the right course, to strengthen the right intentions in our hearts, and to guide us to all that pleases him. He is the best patron and the best supporter. May God's peace and mercy be upon you. [applause]

### Two Policemen Shot Dead by Suspected 'Extremists'

*NC2401141293 Paris AFP in English 1308 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] Cairo, Jan 24 (AFP) - Two policemen were shot dead Sunday in central Cairo by suspected Muslim fundamentalist extremists, Egyptian police said.

The two conscripts, Mahmud 'Abd-al-Hadi, 22, and Muhammad 'Abd al-Mun'im, 21, were shot in the working-class district of Bulaq. Their four assailants fled.

### Group Planning Attacks on U.S., Israeli Embassies Arrested

*NC2301192693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] The Egyptian regime's security forces have announced that they have recently arrested several members of an Islamic group in Imbabah on suspicion that they were planning to attack and destroy the American and Zionist Embassies in Cairo.

The city of Sawhaj and one of Cairo's suburbs have been scenes of armed clashes and confrontations between Egyptian Islamists and the Egyptian regime's security forces for the past 24 hours.

### Leader of 'Extremist Group' Arrested in Al-Fayyum

*NC2301163193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—Security agents in the al-Fayyum Governorate today arrested Sayyid 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhammad, the leader of an outlawed extremist group al-Shawqiyun, in the [name indistinct] village. The 30-year-old Muhammad is an employee at the Bridges Company in al-Fayyum and has been absent from work for some time. Yasir Salah Qutb, a member of the same group, was also arrested in the village of Kahk.

Qutb was sentenced in absentia to six months in prison for setting fire to olive groves in the village of Ibshaway in 1991.

### Cut in U.S. Aid Linked to 'Lack of Support' for Iraq Policy

*NC2301113793 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1036 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—On its front page today, the opposition newspaper AL-HAQIQAH [The Truth], publishes the following:

A responsible economic source says that the U.S. Administration has notified Egypt of a reduction in the size of this year's assistance to $600 million, compared with $892 million for last year, and of the cancellation of assistance funds that so far have not been used.

This came in response to Egypt's lack of support for the strike against Iraq. The source referred to the policy of new U.S. President Clinton, which will focus more on domestic economic issues than on external ones, saying that such a policy may lead to the cancellation of U.S. assistance to Egypt while maintaining U.S. aid to Israel.

Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, recently said that U.S. assistance will be reduced this year from $892 million to $822 million.

The new U.S. secretary of state said last week that U.S. assistance to Egypt will be maintained.

### U.S. Memorandum Called 'Insolent Threat'

*NC2401174393 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Jan 93 p 1*

[Unattributed report: "Washington Angry at the Egyptian Government's Position"]

[Text] AL-SHA'B has learned that the United States has made a protest to the Egyptian Government over some responsible leaders' reactions to the first raid against Iraq. The leaders apparently said they regretted the use of force. In a memorandum conveyed through diplomatic channels, Washington strongly criticized the Egyptian officials' rejection of the air raid. Washington stressed that the "strange" Egyptian stand, as the memorandum called it, conflicts with the nature of Egyptian-U.S. relations. The stand, the note adds, encourages Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to continue his "hostile" acts against U.S. and Western interests in the Gulf region, particularly since all U.S. information (intelligence information) indicates that Iraq still possesses various types of conventional, chemical, and nuclear weapons it has managed to hide from international inspection teams after having misled them and obstructed their mission.

In an insolent threat, the U.S. memorandum hinted that the variance between the Egyptian and U.S. positions could lead the new U.S. Administration to reduce the volume of economic aid!!

### Clinton Urged To Raise U.S. Image in Arab World

*NC2201184993 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 20 Jan 93 p 3*

["Good Morning" column by Sa'id Sunbul]

[Text] This evening, Cairo time, Bill Clinton will take office as President of the United States of America after having succeeded in removing George Bush from the presidential post and depriving him of a second term.

During the election campaign, Clinton accused President Bush of paying attention to foreign policy and problems of the outside world and ignoring domestic policy and the issues that concern the American people, which Clinton said led to a slump in markets, a stagnant economy, and increased unemployment. The American people welcomed this approach, elected Clinton, and voted Bush out of office.

During the past 100 days—the transition period between the old and new U.S. Presidents—Clinton took his time selecting the best economists and businessmen to work as his aides when he takes office. He was not content with this and embarked on a new tradition in U.S. policy: He held a two-day economic conference. He and the best American economists discussed the problems of the U.S. economy. He listened to their views and proposals on how best to emerge from the recession. Thus, he asserted what he promised the American people: That he would focus more on domestic than foreign problems.

By his actions in his last few days in office, President Bush drowned the new President in a sea of foreign problems. He carried out an unprecedented act in U.S. policy as he, in his last hours in office, made serious decisions and dealt a military strike against to Iraq. He set a fire in the Gulf and left it to the new President to put it out. Inasmuch as the Arab people sympathized with the United States in the war to liberate Kuwait, they currently resent the new actions. The Arab peoples currently denounce the killing of innocent people in an Arab country that has been rendered powerless and helpless.

President Clinton will begin his term drowned in a sea of foreign problems passed on by his predecessor. At the forefront of the responsibilities that fall on the new President's shoulders is to improve America's image in the Arab world by halting strikes against Iraq. It is unreasonable for a state that raises the slogan of protecting human rights to take revenge against the helpless Iraqi people just because they are governed by a tragic and insane man. In addition, President Clinton needs to take a fair stand on the Palestinian issue, the peace talks, and settling the Palestinian deportees' issues. We wish President Clinton success in improving America's image in the Arab world.

### Clinton Takes Over World of 'Chaos', 'Challenges'

*NC2201192693 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Jan 93 p 9*

[Editorial: "Clinton Assumes Office"]

[Text] Bill Clinton will officially take office as U.S. President today, setting in a completely new administration in Washington. This new administration will not completely end the political and economic policies of the Republican administration that has ruled for 12 years. It will, however, drastically change the way these policies are implemented, taking into consideration recent international and local changes.

A few days before his inauguration, Clinton sought to assure everybody that he will adhere to his election promises. Appearing a little self-defensive, he angrily denied press reports that he intends to normalize relations with Saddam Husayn and that he has started to back down on his promises to revive the U.S. economy.

There is no doubt that Clinton, who has a great chance to implement his policies and promises thanks to the Democratic majority he enjoys in the Congress, will face difficult and grave problems, which make it incumbent on him to begin immediately to define clear policies and announce convincing choices. If Bush and the Republicans have left Clinton a legacy devoid of the concerns of communism and the dangers of nuclear weapons, the new U.S. President is facing a world surrounded by more chaos and challenges resulting from the collapse of the old world order. Dealing with the new world order will be more difficult.

### Musa on U.S.'s Role in Talks, Iraq, Israel Visit

*NC2401083793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0726 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed that there is no intention of ending the Arab boycott of Israel before the policy of Jewish settlement building in the occupied territories is halted.

The foreign minister said in an interview with the newspaper AL-'ALAM AL-YAWM [The World Today] published today that his recent visit to Israel focused on bolstering the peace process and solving the Palestinian deportees problem, which has had a negative effect on the atmosphere surrounding the peace process.

Musa asked the Israeli authorities to end the current stalemate stemming from Israeli extremism. He said that their behavior is illegal and violates international law.

Responding to a question on the role of Japan, which he recently visited, in reviving the peace process, Musa said that we cannot force any side to do a specific thing. All sides, however, are asked to work to promote the peace process to benefit from the atmosphere of stability in the region.

He said that what is required is to support the rights of the Palestinian people and to force Israel to withdraw from all occupied territories. He said Japan could play a major role on the economic level because of its important international economic status.

Musa said there is nothing to fear from the policy of the new U.S. Administration. He said President Bill Clinton's administration is continuing efforts to implement U.S. commitments to bolster and mobilize the peace process.

The foreign minister stressed the need to preserve the unity and integrity of Iraq and the security of its people. He said we call for respecting the unity of all Iraqi territory without harming the safety and security of Iraq's people.

### Bosnian Situation Said To Show 'Defect' in UN

*NC2501083693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 25 Jan 93*

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jan (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR writes that the tragedy of the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina has exposed a serious defect within the UN General Assembly, which should be responsible for safeguarding security and peace and defending people's independence, sovereignty, and freedom. The paper remarks that nine months have passed since the Serbs first tried to usurp Bosnian land and the international organization still cannot halt the continuous flow of streams of blood.

In its editorial today, AL-AKHBAR expresses surprise that the international organization diverts its efforts from protecting the victims of aggression and insisting on safeguarding the country's unity and sovereignty over all its territories in line with the UN Charter toward dividing the land into small entities that make them vulnerable to attempts to devour them.

The paper refers to Serbian attempts to seize a Croatian region and the Serbian threat to mount an all-out offensive against the international forces if they do not stop Croatia's attempts to defend its territories and national soil.

AL-AKHBAR warns that unless the world community imposes its will quickly and takes firm measures to implement its resolutions that call for stopping aggression and respecting its members' independence and sovereignty, the world will be transformed into a jungle in which the strong prey on the weak. The paper points out that this would be a very serious setback and a return to early barbarism, with the credibility of international laws and charters wasted.

In an editorial on the same subject, AL-AHRAM refers to a report by the U.S. State Department on world human rights in which it admits that the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina is an example of the atrocious barbaric acts being committed by Serbs against Muslims, acts that recall Nazi atrocities of five decades ago.

The paper remarks that although this American admission is morally and politically important, it involves nothing new as far as the Bosnian Muslims' tragedy is concerned. On the contrary, the paper adds, this admission reveals the world community's failure to provide the minimum acceptable level of protection for those people and exposes the weakness of international legitimacy on many issues that require quick and resolute intervention.

AL-AHRAM calls on the U.S. Congress to act on that report and take all the necessary measures to urge President Bill Clinton to seriously review his country's 'practical, tolerant' policy on the terrible violation of human rights in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

### Presidential Adviser Leaves for Talks in U.S.

*NC2301073693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0614 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, left Cairo for New York this morning accompanied by a delegation.

Dr. al-Baz will hold consultations with UN officials in New York for two days, after which he will go to Washington to meet officials in the new U.S. Administration and discuss with them bilateral relations and the developments in the Middle East.

### Mubarak Phones King Fahd for Consultations

*NC2301221193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] President Husni Mubarak this evening telephoned the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, as part of their continuing consultations over various issues of interest to the Arab and Islamic worlds.

### Iran Reportedly Preparing Air, Sea Strike

*NC2401173893 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 20 Jan 93 p 1*

[Excerpt] Dr. Yusuf Wali, agriculture minister and secretary general of the National Democratic Party, has renewed his accusations against Iran and Sudan of undermining Egypt's stability. He said that Iran is preparing for an air and naval strike against Egypt and the Gulf states and added that Egypt is monitoring the situation closely. He also said that there are 13 terrorist training camps in Sudan, stressing that 5,000 Iranians in Sudan are training terrorists. He explained that Iranians enter Sudan by sea. Wali added that terrorists from all Arab states are at the camps but denied that Libya has any connection with them. He called for coordination with Libyan authorities to exchange information to prevent terrorists from infiltrating into Egypt through Libyan-Egyptian borders. [passage omitted]

## Sudan

### Al-Bashir Interviewed on Political Issues

*PM2501112593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jan 93 p 6*

[Report on interview with Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation, by Imam Muhammad Imam; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] Numerous questions are being asked on the political scene in Sudan about the domestic political relaxation aimed at bringing symbols of various influential political elements into the National Salvation Revolution's programs and strategies in the stage ahead. Questions about this issue increased after the celebrations marking the 37th anniversary of Sudan's independence, during which many surprises were expected to be announced within the framework of the endeavors to achieve a degree of national accord among the Sudanese themselves. [passage omitted]

I began my interview with the Sudanese president by talking about the National Salvation Revolution's endeavors to bring about domestic political relaxation and extensive participation by symbols of various influential political elements before their joining [of the Revolution Council], especially the milestones of Sudanese politics, [Ummah Party leader and former Prime Minister] al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and [Democratic Unionist Party leader] Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani.

President al-Bashir began his interview by saying: Actually there is not a fundamental disagreement between us and the grassroots of the political parties in question. The disagreements are limited to their traditional leaderships.

Our view has been clear since the revolution erupted 30 June 1989; namely, to work to unify the mass base of the Ummah Party, Unionist Party, and the [National Islamic] Front. This is why we have begun to mobilize influential mass elements of these parties and involve them in all our conferences. [passage omitted]

On his government's contacts with Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said: I would like to clarify the following fact: He left Sudan with the government's approval, as he had authorization to transfer money and he was granted a diplomatic passport to travel to London for medical treatment. And we granted him a general amnesty. We know that there are people who are currently trying to persuade him to return. We have no objection to his return to Sudan, but we have not offered him a post or a piece of the cake, as is being reported, simply because there is not a cake for us to share with others. We launched a revolution for the sake of achieving certain aims, and we are not after power.

As for government contacts with (former State Council Chairman) Ahmad al-Mirghani, the Sudanese president says: We do not lay any blame on him, because he has not carried out any action or played any hostile role against the revolution since its launch. And when he informed us of his wish to return to Sudan, we welcomed him and made preparations to receive him, but he did not return for personal reasons.

When I asked him about the truth about the government's contacts with al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and their results, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said: I met with al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and so did brother al-Zubayr (Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation and deputy prime minister). Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's opinion was that his participation should be in the Ummah Party's name and according to his partisan influence. But we told him that we will not open the door to the parties, that we refuse to enter into negotiation with any person on the basis of his partisan capacity, that he has to discuss our programs with us, and that if he wants to participate with us after he is convinced, our doors are open.

With regard to the Sudanese Government's policy on peace in southern Sudan and the possibilities of the second Abuja conference being held, especially as Garang's movement has split into more than three wings, which makes it very difficult to reach an agreement with them, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir believes that his government is completely convinced that peace is its first priority and that the war in the south could be the reason for most of Sudan's problems. He added: "We tried to contact Garang (Colonel John Garang, leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement-Torit Wing) from the first day of the revolution. We found difficulty in contacting him, but contacts were made recently via the regime of Mengistu (former Ethiopian President Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam). We knew from him that there was a need for the Ethiopian authorities to agree to a meeting with Garang. And a meeting was arranged by them; it was held in Addis Ababa." [passage omitted]

Garang began recently to insist on negotiating with the government without the participation of the other southern parties on the pretext that these parties do not carry weight in the military field in the south. The government insists on the need to negotiate with all the parties concerned. In this connection Lt. Gen. al-Bashir believes that his government is dealing with a reality existing on the scene and that the movements which have broken away from Garang have armed enclaves. For example, the al-Nasir group controls more areas than Garang, but Garang's foreign relations are stronger than those of the other movements. But on the Sudanese scene Garang can say that he is the only movement. We still maintain the view that we sit down with all of them, because his military presence is now weak. Peace requires that we sit down with all. [passage omitted]

Asked about the questions raised by observers about Sudan's position on the dispatch of U.S. forces to Somalia, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said: We in Sudan were the first to pay attention to the tragedy in Sudan. We sent ministers and official and popular delegations to Somalia and invited Somali delegations to Khartoum within the framework of our tireless endeavors to mend the rift among the warring factions in Somalia. We began to make extensive moves with all Somali movements with a view to safeguarding Somalia's unity and protecting Somali citizens. And we sought—through our own efforts and those of the states of the Horn of Africa—to find a solution to the Somali problem. These moves were maintained in order to help Somalia through African efforts. We sent relief aid to Somalia to help the fraternal Somali people. Al-Bashir pointed out that their fear over the presence of U.S. forces in Somalia emanates from the concern that there might be undeclared aims behind this huge number of U.S. forces. He said: "We did not object to their declared aims like delivering relief supplies to those affected by the civil war in Somalia. And when U.S. envoy Cohen visited Khartoum recently we explained to him our fear that these forces could have undeclared aims, but he stressed that the forces have specific aims which will end with end of their mission of helping to deliver relief supplies to those affected by the civil war in Somalia. We pointed out to him that we are not opposed to the presence of UN forces as long as their aims are humanitarian, but we fear that the presence of U.S. forces which have links with conflicting factions could aggravate the problem rather than secure a solution to it."

It is not unusual for politicians and others in Sudan to talk openly these days about dissolving the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation. Observers have noted a decrease in the Revolutionary Command Council's powers and its members' participation in the executive apparatus. This has aroused questions on the Sudanese political scene about how an alternative can be chosen. Answering this question, which is being asked on the Sudanese political scene, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said after the endorsement of the new political system, which is being built from the base to the top, this system consists of congresses whose members are chosen through elections. Elections are held in the geographical constituencies, the basic congresses, and group [fi'awiyah] congresses. The economic congress comprises unions, associations, new forces, and economic figures, whereas social congresses comprise doctors, teachers, and unions operating in social fields. There are other congresses like the youth and student congress, the women's congress, and the legal congress comprising judges, counselors, and lawyers, in addition to the diplomatic congress and the security and defense congress. These congresses form what is known as the National Congress. Nomination for National Assembly (parliament) membership is done through the elections to these congresses, in addition to the elections held in the geographical constituencies.

Concluding his interview Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said that after these steps are completed and National Congress members are elected, general elections will be held to choose the president of the republic and his deputy through free and direct elections, and then the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation will be dissolved and the elected president of the republic will assume power.

Asked whether he will run for president of the republic, al-Bashir expressed his abstention from running for president of the republic. He said: "I hope I will not run for the post of president of the republic. However, I leave this matter for the right time."

### Cooperation With Iran in Training Denied

*LD2301184593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] The Sudanese foreign minister denied Iranian-Sudanese cooperation in the training of Islamic elements and described such allegations as fabrications by the Egyptian and British press. 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul, the Sudanese foreign minister, who made these remarks in an exclusive interview with an IRNA correspondent added: A number of countries portray their society's Islamic elements as unauthentic and linked to foreigners. They attempt to crush them by implementing the ironfist policy. The objective of these countries is to divert world public opinion from their internal issues and their countries' human rights violations.

Denying any collaboration between Iran and Sudan regarding the training of Islamic elements on that country's soil, the Sudanese foreign minister said: We have on many occasions invited the exponents of such propaganda, including the Egyptian authorities, to inspect Sudanese territory, but we have received no response on that.

### Fighting Breaks Out Between SPLA Factions

*AB2301105693 Paris AFP in English 1025 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] Nairobi, Jan 23 (AFP) - Fighting has broken out between forces of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) loyal to John Garang, the leader of the Torit faction of the movement, and those opposed to him, the rival Nasir faction said Saturday [23 January].

The rebellion within Garang's faction is going on at Kajo-Kaji and Lasu and is reportedly led by commanders Martin Makur Aleyou, Rwao Makuei, Wal Atheiu and Martin Oai, according to a statement released here by the Nasir faction leader, Lam Akol.

According to the statement, the mutinous commanders are demanding the immediate resignation of Garang whom they accuse of "betraying the cause of the Sudanese people by encouraging disunity and infighting".

Akol claimed that Garang had sent a radio message to his other commanders in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi ordering them to mobilise forces from Pageri to Kajo-Kaji to help stop the rebellion.

The Nasir faction also said Garang had reshuffled his commanders in his Nairobi office "in a last minute effort to buy loyalty."

It said Elijah Malok, director of the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Agency (SRRA), had been replaced with Justin Arop, Garang's representative in Nairobi, while Justin Yao was promoted to the rank of commander.

Mario Muor was appointed secretary general of SRRA, according to Akol's statement. Aketch Khoo, Garang's representative in Paris has been recalled and faces dire consequences because Garang suspects him of involvement the current uprising.

Garang's office here however denied that fighting had broken out within the ranks of the Torit faction and accused the Nasir faction of seeking to raise the morale of government forces now that an SPLA dry season offensive against government forces was underway.

The SPLA has fought since 1983 to free mainly animist and Christian southern Sudan from Islamic domination by the Arabised north.

The Nasir group split from the Torit faction in August 1991, complaining of human rights abuses by SPLA founder John Garang and saying the rebels should form an independent southern state and abandon Garang's policy of fighting for a united but secular Sudan.

### Somali National Movement Delegation Visits

*EA2201202293 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Jan 93*

[Text] Dr. Mustafa Uthman Isma'il, secretary general of the International People's Friendship Council, has received an oral report on the latest developments in Somalia and the national reconciliation steps between the Somali factions aimed at finding a formula for stability in brotherly Somalia. Dr. Mustafa yesterday met in his office a Somali delegation that represents the Somali National Movement currently visiting Khartoum. The delegation, led by Dr. (Idi Udayd Habre), minister of health in the provisional Somali Government, will meet a number of Sudanese officials during its visit. The Somali delegation arrived in Khartoum from the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, after participating in the national reconciliation conference under the auspices of the United Nations.

### UAE, Iran Continue To Resolve Abu Musa Dispute

*LD2401114193 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], has confirmed that consultations are continuing between the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Iran on solving the Abu Musa island dispute.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-'ANBA published today, Bisharah said that dialogue and understanding are the best way to solve all disputes between states. In addition, Bisharah, whose term of office as GCC secretary general expires on 1 April, expressed the hope that Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan Bin-Salim al-Qasimi, the new secretary general, will be successful in serving the march of unified Gulf action.

## Kuwait

### Officials Express Hopes for Clinton Administration

*PM2301145893 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jan 93 p 6*

[Report by Muhammad al-Damyan: "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Explores Kuwaiti Views on Clinton Administration"]

[Text] Kuwait— As Bill Clinton takes over from George Bush as President of the United States, the eyes of the Kuwaiti people are focused on Washington with the hope that U.S. policy on Iraq remains the same and that U.S.-Kuwaiti relations continue to be special.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has interviewed some ministers, parliamentarians, and intellectuals and asked them about their expectations for U.S. policy under the new president, and what is required of that administration in connection with Kuwait in particular.

Education and Higher Education Minister Dr. Ahmad al-Rab'i ruled out the possibility of change under President Bill Clinton because the United States is governed by institutions and is not greatly affected by the change of individuals. He believes, however, that there will be some change in the Arab region and that Iraq will be compelled to comply with and begin to implement the UN resolutions, including the resolutions on the Kuwaiti POW's and detainees.

Dr. Nasir al-Sani', rapporteur of the Kuwaiti National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee, said Bill Clinton is an elected president who believes in democracy and he will follow the same policy of former President George Bush on Iraq and Kuwait. He hoped that the Kuwaiti Government would, in its contacts with the new U.S. Administration, clarify the Kuwaiti position. He added that, contrary to the speculations and fears of some, Clinton's reign would be a good one.

On the issue of the POW's and detainees, al-Sani' commended the good efforts made by the United States, adding that he hopes these efforts would continue under the new administration in coordination with the United Nations and the Red Cross.

Dr. al-Sani' invited former President George Bush to visit Kuwait and said that Kuwait would never forget the part he played in the liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi aggression.

Political writer Dr. 'Ayid al-Manna' said what the Kuwaitis want from Bill Clinton is what Bill Clinton himself pledged during his election campaign, namely to force the Iraqi regime to implement all the UN resolutions on Kuwait. He stressed the importance of not allowing that regime to catch its breath before that happens and of ensuring that it respects its neighbors and does not interfere in their affairs.

Al-Manna' reminded President Clinton of the tragedy of the Kuwait POW's, emphasizing the need to give that issue the priority it deserves. He also urged the new U.S. President to take a firm stand on the Palestinian and Bosnian questions and also on Somalia. He affirmed that the Gulf states still needed U.S. support to protect them against any possible foreign aggression.

Dr. Shafiq al-Ghabri, professor of political science at Kuwait University, spoke of a number of fundamental issues on which U.S. policy does not change from one administration to another. He mentioned in particular the Middle East, which has 60 percent of the world's oil reserves.

One of President Clinton's tasks, he said, is to consolidate stability in the Gulf region and to deal firmly with anyone who tries to undermine that stability.

Comparing Clinton to Bush, al-Ghabra said Clinton came to power on the premise of tackling and solving the domestic economic problems of the United States and not on the basis of foreign policy and, therefore, he might be more willing to conclude agreements with the various regional forces in the Middle East in order not to be preoccupied with foreign issues that would exhaust all his energies.

Finally, he urged Kuwaiti diplomacy to play its cards strongly at the American table, especially the POW card, which is the central issue as far as Kuwait is concerned, in addition to the border demarcation and full recognition of what the United Nations decides in this connection.

## Prime Minister Discusses Security, Iraqi Actions

*LD2301195293 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] His Highness the Heir Apparent and Prime Minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdullah al-Salim al-Sabah, held a meeting with the speaker of the National Assembly, Ahmad Abd al-Aziz al-Sa'dun, the First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, and ministers and members of the National Assembly at al-Bayan Palace at noon today.

Later, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Abd al-Aziz al-Dakhil said that during this fraternal meeting the discussions dealt with the preparations and the preventive measures which have been taken by all the competent authorities to face up to the various eventualities in the light of the current developments resulting from the persistence of the Iraqi regime in challenging the international will, its refusal to implement the UN resolutions, which were a basic condition for the cease-fire after the liberation of Kuwait, and its continued hostile policy toward Kuwait, a matter which poses a threat to security and stability in the region.

Each minister explained the measures adopted by his departments and services, including political moves, contacts with the sister and friendly states, preparations in the fields of defense and internal security, and the supply of energy, fuel, electricity, water, foodstuffs and other requirements, in addition to transportation and communications services, medical services, and other services which all fall in the framework of the plans drawn up for an emergency situation. These plans are regularly reviewed in order to ensure the security of the country and citizens and to guarantee their various needs.

During this meeting, which was characterized by a positive spirit, viewpoints were exchanged about all the matters pertaining to this topic. The preparations and the efforts made by the ministries and other departments were all received with satisfaction and appreciation. In this respect, numerous ideas and proposals were put forward and His Highness the Heir Apparent and Prime Minister said that these ideas and proposals would receive all the government's interest and attention.

The Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs added that the discussions also dealt with ways and means to strengthen the cooperation between the legislative and executive powers to serve the country and the citizens, particularly at this crucial stage in the history of our national march and which requires the utilization of all the potential and the pooling of all the efforts to strengthen the inviolability of our beloved country and protect its security and stability.

The meeting ended at about 1600 when the participants sat down to have lunch with His Highness the Heir Apparent and Prime Minister.

## Turkey's Demirel Arrives; Notes Friendship in Ties

*TA2501123293 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1100 GMT 25 Jan 93*

[Report from Kuwait by Kandemir Alphan]

[Text] Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel has arrived in Kuwait accompanied by Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin; State Minister Cavit Caglar; and Necmettin Cevheri, agriculture and village affairs minister.

In a statement after the welcoming ceremony at the airport, Prime Minister Demirel began by expressing his pleasure at being in friendly Kuwait. He said he brings the Turkish people's greetings and love to the brotherly Kuwaiti people. He said: The situations that emerged in the region in recent years showed more clearly than ever the value and benefits of the friendship between Turkey and Kuwait. Turkey was on the side of justice and the just against the Iraqi attack on Kuwait. By acting together with the international community, Turkey was able to share the pleasure and honor of seeing the restoration of freedom and legitimacy in this friendly country. It is our most sincere wish that these bitter developments do not recur. Our region can no longer bear adventurism or hostility. The framework of regional normalization has been drawn by the UN Security Council resolutions. We attach importance to and await the implementation of these resolutions.

Demirel praised the efforts exerted by Kuwait to heal its wounds and rebuild the country after it regained its freedom. He stressed that he believes in the benefit of the exchange of views he will hold with Kuwaiti leaders on regional and global issues. He said: Together we will look for ways to develop our cooperation further, both internationally and bilaterally, so that it can better serve the interests of our countries and peoples. Demirel expressed the wish that his visit will contribute to regional peace and cooperation.

Later, the prime minister went to [name indistinct] palace, his residence during his stay, where he was received by Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti amir. The amir is now giving a luncheon in honor of Demirel. The prime minister will continue to hold contacts this afternoon.

## OPEC President Arrives for Talks on Oil Issues

*LD2401174593 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] OPEC President Alirio Parra arrived today on a visit to Kuwait, during which he will hold talks with Oil Minister 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli and a number of other officials. These talks will center on issues relating to OPEC. The OPEC president did not specify which issues will be discussed during his talks with the oil minister. He only said that the talks would focus on ways to reach decisions on a number of issues linked to OPEC.

## Islamic States Radio Organization Holds Meeting

*LD2301131393 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Excerpts] Under the auspices of Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir Sa'ud al-Sabah, the Executive Council of the Islamic states radios organization held its 16th session at the Meridian Hotel this morning under the chairmanship of the executive president of the council and the undersecretary of the Ministry of Information in the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Dr. Fu'ad 'Abd-al-Salam al-Farisi.

The opening meeting of the 16th session, which will continue until tomorrow, began with the speech of the host country. It was delivered by the undersecretary of the Ministry of Information for broadcasting affairs, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Mansur.

He welcomed representatives of the member-states on the liberated soil of Kuwait. He underlined the great role of the organization of Islamic states radios in championing the causes of Islam and Muslims and clarifying the basis of Islam in confronting the hostile media campaigns seeking to distort the image of Islam and Muslims.

Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Mansur called for lending support to the media organs of the Islamic states so that they become effective instruments in realizing the lofty aims for which the organization has been instituted. He also stressed the need to coordinate tackling the issues that concern Islam and Muslims. [passage omitted]

Dr. Fu'ad 'Abd-al-Salam al-Farisi stressed that the Islamic media organs at all national, regional, and universal levels are called upon to do their duty toward defending the issues of the Islamic nation and strengthening the ties of brotherhood and solidarity and closer links among its peoples and confronting the media organs that are hostile to Islam and Muslims. These organs possess highly technical capabilities and vast financial resources. [passage omitted]

Muhammad Musin, assistant secretary for information and cultural affairs of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], delivered the speech on behalf of ICO Secretary General Hamid Algabid who expressed pride in convening the session on the liberated soil of Kuwait. Dr. Algabid stressed the importance of the mission placed on the shoulders of the Islamic media organs in confronting the tendentious media campaigns to which our Islamic world is exposed today.

Afterward, the opening session was adjourned.The first working session followed. The representatives of the states taking part in the session—Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Guinea, and the ICO—put forward a number of recommendations that centered on ways of ensuring the success of the task of the organization in championing and bolstering the cause of Islam and Muslims in all parts of the globe. The first working session adjourned at about 1215 (local time).

# Saudi Arabia

## King Invites Afghan Mojahedin To Discuss Problems

*LD2201202193 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Jan 93*

[Appeal by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud to the leaders of the Afghan mojahedin; place and date not given]

[Text] To the brother leaders of the Afghan mojahedin and to every Muslim brother who is fighting his brother mojahedin in Afghanistan:

We have been following with deep pain in our hearts what has been happening and continues to happen in Kabul, the capital of jihad and the symbol of sacrifices for the way of upholding God's sway.

The media carried news of the bloody and violent escalation of fighting that took the life of a number of soldiers. The fighting has led to an exodus of many civilians, in addition to the hundreds of wounded who fell as a result of the reckless shelling, which used hundreds of shells and lasted for well over eight hours against Islamic positions. These positions only yesterday were invincible fortresses in the face of Islam's enemies and to the usurpers and aggressors who were defeated by God, who made you triumph over them, who planted your feet firmly, and who enhanced you with resolution, strength, and faith as an act of fulfillment of his great promise in his holy book, when he said: If you aid the cause of God, he will aid you and plant your feet firmly.

When you fought for the way of God and your intentions were sincere, he gave you supremacy and helped you conquer your enemy, and you returned to your homes victorious and champions, chanting God's name, praising God's greatness, and praising God for bestowing on you his bounties and good fortune.

The entire Islamic world stood alongside you. It lent you its support and backing. The voices of Muslims were raised loud and clear in the courtyard of God's house and at the mosque of his prophet, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, and in all the mosques of the world. They were praying for your victory, voicing their support for you, because you were fighting for the way of God and the supremacy of right, and God was with you there.

Perhaps, brother leaders of the Afghan mojahedin, you recall the fraternal, steadfast, and sincere stands of your brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—government and people—who stood with you along with all means at their disposal so that you score a convincing victory. Today, brothers, we see that things, beginning several months ago, started to go in the wrong direction. We also see that the unity of the brothers in Islam, who were yesterday fighting their enemy in a common trench, has been torn apart, and they soon began to fight one another in a struggle for power motivated by worldly disputes. We cannot but again remind you of God's words in his holy book: Fall into no dispute lest you lose heart and your power depart. Be patient and persevering, for God is with those who patiently persevere.

Brothers, the worst thing we fear is that Satan might have sown his seeds of mischief amongst you to split your ranks, frustrate your actions, and destroy all you have achieved, with the blood of your martyrs, of victory, invincibility, and greatness for the sake of the Muslim people of Afghanistan. What you have achieved is a trust that has been placed on your shoulders, and it must not be squandered, whatever the reason or the justifications. Proceeding from our duty and responsibilities and to preserve and not let the great gains that you have realized be laid to waste, I again address to you this appeal: I appeal to you in the name of Islam, who brought our hearts together and who made our people brothers, to put aside your arms and let reason, conscience, and logic be your judge. You should stop the shedding of the blood of the sons of your Muslim brothers in Afghanistan.

I also address to you a sincere invitation to come to Saudi Arabia, during which you meet on the grounds of brotherhood and love, and discuss the viewpoints and the aspects of your differences, through which you may arrive at what is beneficial to your religion and your life, and return to your homeland as one hand and one heart to start the march of construction, development, and prosperity for the people of Afghanistan, who have entrusted you with their fate and resources.

I ask God to enlighten your insights, and guide you along the right path.

## United Arab Emirates

### Clinton Asked for 'Balanced' Position in Mideast

*JN2301190693 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 20 Jan 93 p 1*

[Editorial: "Clinton, the President"]

[Text] Bill Clinton will today start his four-year term in office as president of the richest and most powerful country in the world under circumstances not seen by any other president of the United States, which now is the only power dominating the world after the downfall of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War and the ideological conflict that dominated the U.S. policy since World War II up to the dismantling of the communist block and the Warsaw Pact. However, the monopoly on leadership of the world entails a major responsibility toward the world's security and safety.

If Clinton has won the presidential race because of his election platform which gave priority to U.S. domestic issues, rapid developments in the world dictate that he should give similar attention to world affairs. What concerns us Arabs is the position the Middle East will occupy in that attention. We have the right to assume it will be a very special position in view of the fact that the Middle East is vitally important to the U.S. economy, which is Clinton's main concern. It is also of strategic importance for the foreign issues that will impose themselves on the U.S. Administration in the age of its power monopoly over the world.

The Arabs expect the Clinton administration to measure up to its global responsibility and maintain a reasonable amount of balance in its relations with the Arabs and Israel. Such a balance will help convince Israel to abandon its aggressive plans and expansionist schemes and, consequently, open the road to a just and comprehensive peace in the region that would benefit the peoples there, as well as the United States and the entire world.

The balanced position required from Clinton is the position that supports the principles of international legitimacy and provides U.S. policy with considerable credibility, which it needs very much in its effort to establish its leadership of the new world.

### Croatian Trade Minister Arrives on 2-Day Visit

*JN2301082593 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0755 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Jan (WAKH)—Branko Miksa, Croatia's trade minister and personal representative of the Croatian president, arrived in Abu Dhabi this morning on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates.

The Croatian minister will hold talks with a number of Emirian officials aimed at reinforcing bilateral relations, especially in the fields of economics, trade, and finance.

## Officials, Media React to Further Bombing

### Diplomatic Heads Briefed

*JN2201143393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1357 GMT 22 Jan 93*

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jan (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf today, Friday, called in the heads of Arab and other diplomatic missions in Baghdad.

He briefed them on the provocative actions taken by a U.S. military aircraft in northern Iraq yesterday, Thursday.

Al-Sahhaf spelled out Iraq's position toward this irresponsible behavior on the part of the American side, noting that certain ill-intentioned forces obviously were seeking to underrate the Iraqi initiative announced by the Revolution Command Council's [RCC] statement issued on 19 January 1993.

He underlined Iraq's commitment to the letter and spirit of the RCC statement despite the provocative and aggressive behavior of the U.S. military aircraft. Iraq, the foreign minister added, will keep track of the behavior of the other side.

Al-Sahhaf handed the mission chiefs Arabic- and English-language copies of the relevant Foreign Ministry statement. So that their governments may get a true picture of the situation, he asked that they communicate the details of the incident and the clear facts that disprove the claims of the American side.

### U.S. Aircraft Bomb in North

*JN2201151793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Jan 93*

[Text] An official at the U.S. Defense Department has said that a U.S. aircraft attacked an Iraqi air defense position over the no-fly-zone north of 36th parallel today. This is the second incident of its kind in the past 24 hours.

The official added that the aircraft, an F-4 G, was carrying out a sortie with another aircraft of the same type, and fired two HARM missiles at an Iraqi missile battery, but, apparently, it missed its target.

### Latest Attack Called 'Unnecessary'

*NC2201181093 Paris AFP in English 1806 GMT 22 Jan 93*

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 22 (AFP)—Iraq said Friday that a U.S. attack inside a northern no-fly zone was "unnecessary" and denied the existence of missile batteries in that region, a military spokesman said.

"There are no anti-aircraft batteries in that region, no SAM missiles or any other type of missiles," said the spokesman in the first Iraqi reaction to Friday's attack.

In Washington a Pentagon official said a U.S. warplane fired on an Iraqi air defence site that locked its radar on the aircraft.

### U.S. Air Attack Said 'Contrived'

*JN2201180393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1753 GMT 22 Jan 93*

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jan (INA)—An Iraqi spokesman has described the American air attack, east of Mosul, today as contrived [mufta'al], because there are no SAM 3 or any other type of air defense batteries to the east of Mosul.

A Pentagon official had earlier said that a U.S. F-4 fired two anti-radar HARM missiles on a SAM 3 battery.

The American spokesman said that the strike was carried out in reaction to the Iraqi SAM 3 radar locking onto a U.S. aircraft that was accompanied by another F-16 plane. The two missiles missed their target, he said.

The official Iraqi spokesman emphasized that today's incident has been contrived and calculated to provoke, because to the east of Mosul there are no SAM 3 or any other type of air defense batteries.

It should be noted that Arab and foreign radio and television correspondents, as well as INA and Iraqi radio and television reporters, visited the village of Bakhaira in the Hammam al-'Alil Subdistrict of Ninawa Governorate, 400 km from Baghdad, today. The village came under an American air strike yesterday under the same pretext.

The journalists saw the damage caused by the American missiles and were shown around the sites that were hit in the village and surrounding farms. They also saw chemical fertilizer stacks [that were smoldering] after the U.S. aircraft dropped two containers of cluster bombs on the fields.

### Area Said 'Completely Void of Any Missile Batteries'

*JN2301103493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] Mosul, 23 Jan (INA)—Radio and television network crews, as well as correspondents from Arab and foreign newspapers, the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, Baghdad television, and local papers have visited the village of Bakhaira, which is affiliated with the subdistrict of Hammam al-'Alil in Ninawa Governorate, and which came under a treacherous attack yesterday.

The local, Arab, and foreign news crews were acquainted with the effects of the damage caused by the hostile U.S. bombardment of farms and chemical fertilizer stocks, which were damaged when two "U.S.-made" containers carrying a large number of antipersonnel cluster bombs of the type PLU 97 [as received] fell on them.

The media crews have also seen traces of the aggression, unexploded bombs, as well as debris from bombs which exploded when they hit the ground, damaging winter crops and fertilizer stocks.

The INA team, which was among the press and media teams visiting the village, quoted local residents as saying that enemy planes, during their low-altitude flight over the village yesterday, dropped two containers of bombs. However, they added, the containers fell 300 meters short of the village and did not cause any human losses.

The villagers went on to say that the enemy planes left behind pillars of smoke and flame over the village after fragments of cluster bombs splintered over a large area of farmland there.

Eyewitnesses in the village, whose farms were hit by U.S. aircraft, told the INA team that at 1310 [1010 GMT] yesterday, Thursday [as received], planes flew over an area of farmland in the village at ordinary speeds and at low altitudes while farmers were fertilizing their land. These planes, the eyewitnesses added, dropped two large containers, containing scores of bombs, on the area. The bombs exploded on the ground, setting ablaze the fertilizers farmers were spraying on their land, the eyewitnesses noted.

Sources close to the Civil Defense Department in the area said that U.S. aircraft dropped two containers, carrying many bombs, on the area. A large number of these bombs exploded on the farmland and fertilizers, while others failed to explode. Specialized Civil Defense teams, the sources added, defused the unexploded bombs.

These sources noted that even though the areas where the bombs were dropped have been determined, it is still likely that there are other unexploded bombs yet to be defused, thanks to the large area over which the bombs were dropped. This poses a grave danger to the civilian population of the area, who graze their sheep and plant their crops there.

The sources explained that the type of bomb dropped, PLU 97, is sophisticated and used in various circumstances, including the burning of large areas of farmland.

Civil Defense sources affirmed that reports carried by world television networks and news agencies, to the effect that there were missile batteries that locked their radars on U.S. and French aircraft in the area, are utterly baseless because the area referred to by these networks and news agencies is the very area visited by correspondents today. The sources added that the area is completely void of any missile batteries.

## 'Goodwill Gesture' Called For

*JN2301093493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jan (INA)—An Iraqi newspaper has affirmed that the goodwill gesture made by the Revolution Command Council expresses the faith of Iraq—leadership and people—in a peace based on justice and fairness.

In an article published today, the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH adds that the other side must act to demonstrate goodwill toward this gesture. Similarly, the paper notes, it must seek to resolve all the problems created by the previous administration through dialogue.

The paper explains that the Iraqi goodwill gesture was meant to give the new U.S. Administration sufficient time to consider the issue of the no-fly zones banning Iraqi flights in northern and southern Iraq.

The paper recalls that the statement [issued by the Revolution Command Council in this regard] was based on objective foundations that call for the establishment of ties between the two sides that would ensure the legitimate rights of both parties on the basis of right, justice, and international legitimacy.

The paper also recalls the unfair and unilateral resolution the capitals of the coalition members made to harm Iraq and isolate areas in it from one another, saying that this resolution is illegal and in violation of international law.

AL-QADISIYAH notes that the unfair no-fly zone resolution, which was drafted by imperialist quarters in such a manner so as to undermine and violate the sovereignty of a UN member state, is deemed a serious precedent in the conduct of tyrannical powers toward independent nations—one that is not based on any legal grounds.

The paper touches on the aggression mounted by Bush, the accursed criminal of the age, against our people and Arab nation, the effects of which continue to testify to the savageness of this man and his disregard for the human spirit. This aggression, the paper adds, is reminiscent of the dark ages when Timur Lenk and Hulego reigned supreme.

The paper affirms that the regenerative Iraqi capabilities under His Excellency President Saddam Husayn have managed to contain the aggressive onslaught, launch a counteroffensive, thwart the conspiracy, and rebuild what the aggressors destroyed in an exceptional manner that amazed even the enemies of Iraq.

In its article, AL-QADISIYAH urges the administration of U.S. President Bill Clinton to deal with Iraq in a manner that does not undermine its national sovereignty and its territorial integrity, because this is the only way to achieve security and peace in the region and to establish balanced ties with all parties.

### Clinton Warned of Pentagon, CIA

*JN2301105693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has warned against the remnants of the Bush administration in the Pentagon and the U.S. intelligence network who are certainly interested in continuing to provoke Iraq and attack it under various pretexts.

In an editorial entitled "Beware of the Remnants of Bush," the newspaper said that these remnants are interested in fabricating and creating a negative atmosphere to keep facts from the new President, Clinton, as he begins his term of office.

The newspaper added that the aim of these provocations is to force Clinton to adopt a strained position toward Iraq by fabricating lies.

Refuting the pretexts presented by the remnants of the Bush administration in the lobbies of the Pentagon and the CIA for bombing several Iraqi areas near Mosul yesterday and the day before, AL-JUMHURIYAH said these aggressions are raising questions by political observers because they accompanied Clinton's assumption of constitutional duties as the new U.S. President.

AL-JUMHURIYAH said that the current questions pinpoint the existence of elements in responsible positions in the Pentagon and the CIA who are remnants of the criminal Bush administration, and who are obviously working to push the new administration into taking hostile steps and creating incidents. Official Iraqi statements have confirmed the nature of the events that coincided with these incidents, proving the existence of premeditated aims to continue the aggression against Iraq. The paper gave examples to expose the pretexts that were given for these aggressions, such as France's denial of the U.S. statement that a French plane had been threatened by Iraqi radar. The paper noted that this French denial means that the threat of Iraqi radar was nonexistent since U.S. planes were escorting French reconnaissance aircraft south of Mosul.

The paper refuted the statement by a Pentagon official that a U.S. F-4G plane fired two antiradar HARM missiles which missed their target. The paper described this statement as fragile because the HARM missile is one of the most accurate U.S. antiradar missiles and is programmed to hit its target within 20 seconds, even if the radar is switched off after the missile has locked onto it.

The paper asked: Why then did the first missile miss its target and, if there was a reason for this error, why did the second missile also miss the target?

The paper said that any ordinary military analyst will readily uncover this unsound and false U.S. story, confirming the statement by an official Iraqi spokesman that there are no air defense batteries east of Mosul, be they SAM-3 or any other type.

Concluding, the paper said: Therefore, we tell it [the Clinton administration] with all sincerity and with a concern for peace and security: "Beware of the remnants of Bush."

### Cabinet Briefed on Attacks Near Mosul

*JN2301115693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] The Council of Ministers held a regular session this morning under Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi. Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz attended.

The council was briefed by the deputy prime minister, the culture and information minister, and the foreign minister on the international political situation as well as the two contrived incidents involving U.S. aircraft in the Mosul sector yesterday and the day before yesterday.

The council also discussed topics listed on its agenda, which consisted of organizational and administrative topics. It made the necessary decisions and recommendations on them.

### U.S. Plane Bombs in South 23 Jan

*JN2401054993 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0530 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] UN chemical weapons inspectors returned to the field yesterday and said Iraq was cooperating with them after a two-week delay caused by the latest confrontation between Baghdad and the West.

Meanwhile, the military attacks continued yesterday when a Navy source in Washington said: Three U.S. Navy warplanes were shot at in the southern no-fly zone of Iraq and one bombed the Iraqi position that attacked them.

### Ministry Denies Planes Fired Upon

*JN2401094893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0931 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jan (INA)—A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has denied the reports propagated by some news agencies which alleged that Iraqi ground defenses opened fire on three U.S. planes in southern Iraq last night.

The spokesman affirmed that no such incident had occurred and that no Iraqi ground defenses opened fire or turned on their radars.

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency, the Foreign Ministry responsible spokesman noted with extreme amazement the reports propagated over the past few days on Iraqi military activities against U.S. aircraft.

The spokesman affirmed that such reports are unfounded, and that Iraq is committed to the cease-fire announced by the Revolution Command Council in its statement issued on 19 January 1993.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that competent Iraqi authorities are still searching for the place on which the U.S. planes dropped a bomb that was said to be laser-guided.

### Dialogue With U.S. Urged

*JN2301132093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH affirms that force, which has been used to humiliate, partition, and weaken Iraq, and to violate its national sovereignty as well, has proven useless.

In an article entitled "Iraq's Gesture is a Peaceful Response to an Aggressive Inclination," the paper adds: The Mother of Battles and the accompanying ferocious aggressiveness, as well as the peculiar determination to pursue tactics of total devastation and to return Iraq to the preindustrial age, have all shown an unusual determination to pursue a policy of brute force in international relations. This policy is based on purely personal motives nourished by selfish regional interests, suspicious deals, and protection commitments given under circumstances in which family interests mingled with political chaos and inclinations governed by backward human instincts.

The paper affirms that the return to force only a few days before Bush left his executive office unmistakably shows that the purposes and motives which prompted the U.S. Administration to launch its first aggression of 1991, foremost among them being personal grudges, were the very purposes and motives which caused this administration to experience feelings of frustration and failure as a result of the consequences of the first confrontation in the eternal Mother of Battles.

Concluding its article, AL-QADISIYAH says: The U.S. Administration must take into account, particularly in the aftermath of the newest goodwill gesture, the fact that the use of force has never worked on Iraq, and that the coming days will show the Iraqi leadership's serious efforts to achieve peace and replace the language of bombs, which might have ended with the departure of criminal Bush from the White House, with the language of dialogue.

### Clinton Urged To Seek Conciliation

*NC2301143093 Paris AFP in English 1230 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Excerpt] Baghdad, Jan 23 (AFP)—Iraq Saturday kept its olive branch extended to U.S. President Bill Clinton despite two U.S. air attacks since he took office, pinning blame on his predecessor George Bush.

Two official newspapers urged Clinton not to follow Bush's policy and to turn a new page with Iraq.

The BABIL daily, headed by the son of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, 'Udayy, said Clinton should take a conciliatory stand and start a dialogue with Baghdad.

"Clinton only has one choice: to adopt the principle of dialogue with Third World countries to resolve all the problems created by Bush," said BABIL.

"Nobody in Iraq thinks nor will think of provoking Clinton, though he has begun his term by provoking Iraq," said BABIL, which also complained Clinton was "denying Iraq the right to exercise fully its sovereignty." [passage omitted]

### 'Experts' Claim al-Rashid Hotel Strike Deliberate

*JN2501083293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] Two Iraqi military missile experts have affirmed that the treacherous U.S. missile that hit the al-Rashid Hotel last Sunday was originally directed at the hotel, which was on the list of major targets. In a news conference attended by correspondents of world television and radio networks and news agencies, as well as correspondents of the local press and the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY at the al-Rashid Hotel this evening, the two missile experts explained that the U.S. missile, a Tomahawk BGM-109, had passed through all stages of launch before reaching the last reference point prior to the target, and entered the charge (al-taslih) stage to hit the intended target point, which was the al-Rashid Hotel.

Refuting the U.S. allegations that the missile was aimed at the al-Nida' complex, which is located over 13 km south of the hotel, the experts affirmed that missiles that are shot down by ground defenses fall before entering the charge stage and before receiving a signal from the digital electronic battery system to guide the missile during its final stage. Such a signal tells the missile that it is over the last reference point of the target. It is impossible, the experts affirmed, for the missile to fall after entering the charge stage.

An Iraqi expert taking part in the news conference said that the enemies launched 30 missiles at the al-Nida' complex and its surrounding areas, which occupy an area of no more than 2000 by 100 meters. He said that militarily and strategically speaking, it was not necessary to launch a missile from the destroyer Caron. This affirms that there was another target located west of the declared target. In this case, it was the al-Rashid Hotel. The experts added that if the missile had been hit by our ground defenses, it would have fallen in an area close to the target declared by the enemies—the al-Nida' complex—rather than on the western side, and it would have inevitably fallen before explosion.

Screening a video tape of the missile as it entered the target area, they explained the function of all the missile's systems and its emission of an electronic light beam from the flashtube. This takes place only five seconds before the explosion of the missile. The missile then exploded in the target area, which was the al- Rashid Hotel.

The two experts affirmed that the missile fell in an area surrounded on three sides by concrete. They explained that had the missile penetrated the wall of the hotel's shelter, a disaster would have occurred and scores of Iraq's guests taking part in the Sixth Popular World Islamic Conference and other innocent and secure guests would have been killed.

They explained that the five to six-meter-long missile, which weighs 1,250 kg, was launched from the U.S. destroyer Carol in the Red Sea and from a torpedo tube. It is a strategic missile designed to strike point targets. The former Soviet Union had asked the United States to include such missiles in the SALT II talks because the Soviet Union had not possessed such missiles and because this intercontinental missile is capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

## Hammadi Comments on Developments, Cease-Fire

*JN2501094293 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Jan 93 p 11*

[Interview with Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi by chief editor Dr. Musa al-Kilani in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Kilani] What do you have to say concerning the reasons that led to the confrontation and made the United States fire its intercontinental missiles on Baghdad, not to mention the recurrent air raids on northern and southern Iraq, and what objectives does Washington seek to achieve from its new aggression?

[Hammadi] The objectives are not new. They are the same objectives which made the United States launch its spiteful 30-state aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation, and the same objectives which made Israel attack the nuclear reactor in Baghdad.

This series of U.S. aggressions seeks to subdue Iraq and bring it under the U.S. hegemony, and consequently subdue the Arab nation so that it may submissively surrender to this unipolar era without having any role to play.

As you have noticed, the ground defenses and all the sectors of the people have heroically confronted this aggression. These raids will not tarnish our people's reputation. We view this aggression as being merely a minor incident when compared with the 3,000 raids that were launched in 1991 and which dropped the equivalent of seven nuclear bombs of the size that was dropped on Hiroshima.

[Al-Kilani] What do you have to say about the unilateral cease- fire initative that President Saddam Husayn had announced as a gesture of goodwill toward the new U.S. Administration, and what are your expectations?

[Hammadi] We have affirmed and continue to affirm that while we remain committed to all our rights, we seek peace. From this premise, we try to exploit every opportunity to explain our peaceful stand and our desire for dialogue without this detracting our commitment to our rights.

We have affirmed this to the Americans on more than one occasion. Before the military aggression, we proposed to (former) President Bush to hold a dialogue to settle our differences in a peaceful manner. Not only did he ignore this invitation but he did his best to foil any endeavor in this respect. Even after the aggression, President Saddam Husayn suggested having a panel discussion on television with President Bush that the entire world may see. He refused this (it has become clear that Bush's actions are governed by his Saddam complex) and wanted to dictate his hostile policies without encountering any objection. The world at large knows that the U.S. aggression is completely unjustified.

An example of this is that Bush and his alliance insisted that their new aggression with air raids and intercontinental missiles was aimed at forcing Iraq to comply with UN Security Council resolutions. The truth is that we have publicly announced that we abide by these resolutions. What had happened was that the inspection teams are merely agents and spies who act in accordance with a plan that serves Bush's desire. Their method of implementing the UN Security Council resolutions is based on provoking Iraq so that it may adopt a stand rejecting their work. Thus, they will say that Iraq does not comply with the UN Security Council resolutions. This is the problem. But, if we sit down with unbiased people and hold unbiased discussions, they will find that we have implemented most of the UN Security Council resolutions. According to international officials, we have implemented most of what we were required to do, and all reports substantiate this.

In fact, there has been some friction resulting from misunderstandings either on the part of Iraq or on the part of international powers. However, the problem between us and them is not political. Those people want to make sure that the Iraqi nuclear program is completely finished. They want to know its dimensions and locations. As for us, we have no interest in the continued blockade. The nuclear and chemical programs are over, and we are committed to the destruction of long- range missiles. The head of the inspection teams himself has followed up all that is related to the nuclear program. He himself said that the Iraqi program has come to an end. In other words, the program was fully inspected and it was made sure sure that it was over. After that, they started a new game concerning long-range missiles. This question, too, is over, and its file was closed after they made sure that all we possess has been destroyed.

As for the question of chemical weapons, it is not yet over. This is because the destruction of rockets takes time. All reports indicate this. Therefore, the problem is not one of cooperation with inspection teams, but the U.S. Administration and Britain want to confuse the problem of cooperation with inspection teams with the problem of illegitimate air exclusion zones. We have categorically refused and will continue to refuse that our country be partitioned. We do not believe that the world accepts this. We know and they know that the parallels that they imposed on Iraq as air exclusion zones are a means of political extortion and an attempt to pressure Iraq to obtain political gains.

The air exclusion zones in the north and the south have not been approved by the UN Security Council. They have been imposed on Iraq without any cover from the Security Council. When the ban was imposed on the southern area, we told them that we would respond to the challenge. Then, we did not respond militarily because we knew that Bush imposed this ban to drag us into a battle from which he could make gains. I recall the decision was taken on 22 September for electoral purposes. We said then that we object to the ban and declared that we would continue struggle and respond with force at the time we chose. This is because we realized then that Bush's game was an electoral one.

When Bush fell, we realized that Bush had come to an end, and that it was time to express our nonrecognition of this banned area. Thus, we sent our air defenses and tanks into the area. When Bush saw that we were exercising our rights over our land, he tried to create a crisis over the arrival of a UN team in Iraq from Bahrain.

This confusion between the air exclusion zone and the UN team was among Bush's special and strictly personal objectives related to his complex resulting from his downfall and the lofty survival of the Iraqi leadership.

In fact, we have honored approximately 90 percent of our obligations in accordance with Security Council and UN resolutions. We want an end to the blockade question. However, the United States does not want to lift the embargo. Therefore, they create daily pretexts and problems to portray Iraq as failing to cooperate with the United Nations and the Security Council. Therefore, the blockade should continue. This is the main U.S. objective and main cause for all the problems fabricated by the United States and Britain with us. As for us, as you see, we take every possible opportunity to prove that we are a peaceful country and that we want peace. This is best proved by the leader president's new unilateral cease-fire initiative. It is an opportunity that we took to call on the United States and the United Nations to use the language of rational dialogue to bring this crisis to an end.

U.S. insistence on continuing to destroy Iraq and harm, blockade, and kill its people is absolutely no secret. Bush publicly said: They should not imagine that we will lift the blockade, even if the United Nations and the Security Council decide this.

Last year, for example, we were about to reach an agreement with the United Nations on Iraqi oil exports and on a financing mechanism for reparations that satisfies all parties. But the United States suddenly intervened to prevent the United Nations from reaching an agreement with Iraq.

Consider also what happened when we wanted to use our right to deal with the resolution freezing Iraqi assets abroad. You know that under this resolution adopted by the Security Council in 1991, the states which hold frozen Iraqi assets can use these funds to finance Iraq's (humanitarian) imports, such as food, medicine, and others.

The Iraqi Health Ministry did in fact contact companies in these states and signed contracts with them to finance trade transactions within the limits allowed by the Security Council. However, when these contracts reached British, French, and U.S. banks, these states refused to finance these contracts from the frozen Iraqi assets they have, despite the fact that these contracts are in accordance with the above Security Council resolution.

The Security Council had decided to channel the frozen funds to a special UN account since June 1991, but Britain, America, and France, which hold our frozen assets, also refused. They, not us, are violating Security Council resolutions.

[Al-Kilani] Mr. Hammadi, you are the best to understand the mentality of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, given that you have worked closely with him for the past 17 years. How do you explain the strong reference to the issue of Kuwait in his excellency the president's last speech on the Mother of Battles anniversary, which was even stronger than when the Iraqi Army entered Kuwait. This also never happened during the course of the battle. The reference to Kuwait was different, especially with regard to the role of Kuwait. Why?

[Hammadi] The role is not different from what it was. The principles and the approach are the same. The people in Kuwait are our people. However, the special Kuwaiti case is different from any other case. This unique case has generated negative aspects and plots not only against Iraq, but also against the Arab nation as a whole. Because the cooperation of the Kuwaiti regime with the Americans and other forces was diagnosed, we knew that the Kuwaiti people were not pleased with these plots. The president wanted in his speech to emphasize the difference in how we view the conspiratorial rulers and our people in Kuwait. He also wanted to explain the reasons for what happened and the outcome of their rulers' misconduct.

When Kuwaiti plots against Iraq began, we tried to explain the danger of what they started, either directly or through other people. We were shocked by their positions. After they begged us for dialogue, they started avoiding us. We were surprised at their attempts to dodge the question. But we did not want dialogue through war, so we suggested a way to resolve problems by sitting down and talking, but they continued to avoid us.

Indeed, we started to make them feel the mistake of increasing the amounts of oil offered for sale. The large increases affected prices, and the price of the barrel dropped from $20 to $13. Meetings and mediation efforts continued to tell them that increasing production was not in the interest of Iraq and Kuwait. You remember the Jeddah meeting. On that same day, the oil ministers began meeting. The president addressed them and tried to make them understand, but the Kuwaiti regime did not want to understand, because in reality it was hatching plots. This is what the president wanted to explain to our people in Kuwait.

[Al-Kilani] So do you expect the new U.S. Administration to show a positive attitude toward lifting the blockade?

[Hammadi] We know that U.S. policy represents a connected, general, and comprehensive approach, but the important fact remains that Bill Clinton does not hold a personal grudge against Iraq or President Saddam Husayn, as is the case with Bush. We can talk to Bill Clinton. We believe, and know, that the United States has legitimate interests in the Arab region, the same way the Arabs have their legitimate interests. But we do not accept imposing illegitimate interests on us. What I am saying is not new. We also do not accept other party imposing political decisions on us. We will resist this by all means available to us—politically and through the media, and even militarily.

The impression now is that the current U.S. Administration is new and that the slogans it has raised indicate that it will take care of U.S. problems and interests. We are not against legitimate interests, but we oppose any approach directed against us.

[Al-Kilani] You are one of the founders of the Ba'th Party in Iraq, how do you explain the decision adopted by the Ba'th Party congress almost a month ago calling for dialogue and cooperation with Islamic movements worldwide?

[Hammadi] I am not one of the founders of the Ba'th Party. Yes, I had influence, but I was not one of the founders. I think that the decision to establish dialogue with Islamic movements is old, and not new. The decision is in harmony with an earlier approach. We want them to get to know Iraq's real approach and to have facts and evidence for this.

[Al-Kilani] Can we define a certain timeframe for the continued steadfastness of the Iraqi people under the blockade, especially since Western estimates say it will collapse after about six months?

[Hammadi] All factors of Iraqi steadfastness are available. The blockade is a kind of blessing. The Iraqi people are active. We are ready to remain under blockade for 20 or 25 years without collapsing, as they expect. The resolve of the Iraqi people is stronger than the deep-rooted land.

We think that we are not the only people harmed by the blockade. Turkey's losses as a result of the blockade amounted to $15 billion, considering the active trade relations it had with Iraq in the agricultural field, such as cereals and other crops. French companies also sustained losses. This means that the blockade is not on Iraq alone.

[Al-Kilani] One of the reasons that fired animosity toward Iraq has been President Saddam's linkage between the Palestine question and the Gulf issue. Nevertheless, in his recent speech on the Mother of Battles anniversary, his excellency the president reemphasized the Palestine question. That was when he said, Long live Palestine, after he said, Long live Iraq and long live the Palestinian people, after he said, Long live the Iraqi people. He mentioned the Palestinian people as many times as he mentioned the Iraqi people and Iraq. How do you explain that?

[Hammadi] The Palestinians' rights have been usurped and they have been expelled from their homes. This is part of the conspiracy against the entire Arab homeland. The entire Arab homeland and the Palestinian people are targeted by the West and by the agents of the West. We view Iraq's security as part of pan-Arab security. And we view the security of the Arabian Peninsula as part of the Arab nation's security. Jordan's security is part of Arab security. Arab security is not only military and economic security, but also cultural and political security. Moreover, the security of rivers is part of Arab security. Any threat to any Arab capital or to any part of the Arab security is a threat to us all. The enemies base their schemes on this assumption. They view the Arabs as one nation. They know that there are basic factors that bring the members of this nation together. Therefore, they are now planning to divide this nation. They want to revive the Sykes-Picot treaty and to cause further divisions. They make such intentions public, but we do not want to believe that they want to divide Iraq into four states and Lebanon into several states. Besides, the Americans want their agents in Saudi Arabia to help fragment Sudan and even Egypt and north Africa. As they continue attempts to divide the Arab nation, they form coalitions despite the lack of national bonds among them.

We do not have a romantic view of Palestine; we view it as a question of commitment to Palestine. Our defense of it is a defense of ourselves because it is part of the joint pan-Arab security. They want the Arab region to serve colonialism. They want it as a source of energy and a market for their products.

[Al-Kilani] We have heard that his excellency the president is deeply moved over the issue of Palestinian deportees and that he is continuously following news of them?

[Hammadi] This is true. The deportees' stand and steadfastness are a challenge. Such stands are part of the state of Arab challenge. Iraq is also a part of the state of Arab challenge.

[Al-Kilani] How do you interpret the missile strike that targeted the al-Rashid Hotel?

[Hammadi] I am not convinced of the allegation that the American strike at the al-Rashid Hotel took place by mistake. I am totally convinced that the hotel was targeted. Many pieces of evidence prove that. The U.S. aggression targeted the al-Rashid Hotel in 1991. They asked foreign journalists to leave Iraq because they did not want to strike the hotel with foreigners in it.

When the foreign journalists refused to leave the hotel, it was declared through television stations that the al-Rashid Hotel had been considered a military target. At that time, the Iraqi media hastened to reveal the truth about the shelter in the hotel.

An Islamic conference was being held in the al-Rashid hotel and Islamic participants and foreign journalists were residing there. Therefore, they listed the hotel as a target. It was noticed that the strike was aimed at the hotel's shelter. This specifically means that civilians residing in the hotel were targeted. Also, the missile fell on the hall under which the shelter is directly located.

## Rebel Radio Says Attack on Regime Kills 96

*NC2301164693 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] Our mujahidin in the area of (?Khur Qulaym) have launched a devastating attack against the headquarters of the 47th Brigade and the tyrant troops positions in the area of (?al-Mikfa'), inflicting heavy losses.

According to our sources, the three-hour attack destroyed the brigade headquarters and nearby units, causing the following damage:

1. Some 96 brigade members, including seven officers, were killed and over 300 others wounded;

2. A total of five armored vehicles, three (?Nueva) vehicles, and a big diesel engine were destroyed;

3. Fire was seen devouring 50 tents with equipment and weapons inside them.

Our sources add that the popular forces returned safely to their base, carrying a martyr and four wounded heroes from the Islamic resistance.

## Marshlands Shelled; Saddam's Units Deployed

*JN2401155493 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1335 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] The cowardly tyrant's regime has been savagely shelling unarmed citizens in the southern marshlands of the country, using various heavy guns. In a statement about the Saddamist aggression against the marshland inhabitants these days, our mujahidin sources noted that the shelling covered various areas and numerous villages in al-'Amarah and al-Basrah governorates. Our sources added that great number of innocent citizens were either killed or wounded as a result of the savage artillery shelling of the defeated tyrant. Dozens of houses were destroyed and hundreds rendered homeless.

Meanwhile, our mujahidin sources have said that several Saddamist units have been deployed near the marshlands within a plan by the regime, which is incapable of facing the Western aggression, to pick on our unarmed people.

## Kurdish Leader Cables Officials on Irbil Bombing

*JN2401171193 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] The Baghdad regime has perpetrated a new crime against the peaceful Kurdish people in Iraqi Kurdistan, using a handful of sick-minded people who detonated a booby-trapped car in the center of Irbil on 22 January, killing a group of women, children, and elderly people.

On this occasion, struggler Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, sent a cable on 23 January to the Kurdistan region's speaker of parliament, the Kurdistan prime minister, the political leadership of the Kurdistan Front, and to Brother Jalal Talabani.

The following is the text of the cable:

To the brothers, speaker of the Kurdistan region's parliament, the Kurdistan prime minister, the political leadership of the Kurdistan Front, and to respected brother Jalal Talabani:

The crime that was perpetrated in Irbil yesterday will not be forgotten. This criminal deed proves that the Iraqi regime has not learned its lesson from past events. The people who have not been annihilated by the chemical bombs, the Anfals [operations against Kurds in 1988], Arabization plans, and displacement, will not be annihilated by this inhuman deed of detonating a car bomb in the Irbil market place. However, the regime has again opened deep and old wounds.

While offering our condolences to the families of the martyrs and wishing the injured a speedy recovery, we demand from the government of the Kurdistan region, with the support of the Kurdistan parliament and the Kurdistan Front's political leadership, not to allow the blood of these innocent people to go in vain. We demand that the murderers be tried as soon as possible in accordance with the available evidence and proof. The murderers who were involved in previous and recent incidents must be tried to be punished so that no other agent or traitor will dare to carry out such crimes.

## Rabin To Visit U.S.; Clinton Pledges Cooperation

*TA2401065593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] Washington will dispatch invitations soon to the next round of multilateral talks. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the invitations usually are sent only after it becomes clear that the countries participating in the talks will respond in the affirmative.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will leave for the United States in March. Yesterday, President Bill Clinton telephoned Prime Minister Rabin and promised that the close cooperation between the two countries will continue and that Washington will try to advance the peace process in the Middle East.

## Ambassador on Expected U.S. Moves in UN, Aid

*TA2301121293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0805 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Interview with Israel's Ambassador in Washington Zalman Shoval by Arye Golan; in Washington, date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Golan] Ambassador Shoval, does the new Clinton Middle East team symbolize the renewal of the momentum in the negotiations between Israel and the Arabs? Can they move the cart out of the mud?

[Shoval] First of all, the cart is not stuck in the mud. There may be a delay at the moment, but I believe it is a temporary thing. All the parties to the process have their own private interest in seeing the process renewed and continued. There may be all sorts of maneuvers of postponement and raising such or other conditions, but I am convinced the process will resume sooner or later, and will continue.

The team appointed is new in part, but even so it is an old-new team. We know the people and some are familiar with me. I have worked with one or two or even more of them for many years. I believe the team is good, both for the issue and for the State of Israel. The team is made up of profoundly pragmatic people. As you may well know, there is a difference between being pragmatic and lacking any principles. I believe that the basic principles these men observe are not necessarily different from ours. At the same time, they will be executing U.S. policy, not Israeli. They will, however, also have an influence on the policy-making process. I believe that as far as we are concerned, we have plenty of maneuverability in terms of developing a dialogue with them and with their superiors—the President and the secretary of state—to try making the direction of their activity suit us.

[Golan] Do you believe that the new U.S. Administration will exert pressure on Israel to solve the deportees problem so that it could turn over a new leaf, so to speak, and move forward on the Israeli-Arab conflict?

[Shoval] Look, you do not need much political wisdom to see that the U.S. Administration would like to see this problem disappear. At the same time, the administration is aware of the threat—mainly to the peace process—inherent in a possible UN Security Council [UNSC] move in the direction of sanctions or warning of sanctions against Israel. I assume that the administration will make every effort not to be trapped in this dilemma. We also do not want the Americans to find themselves in this dilemma. Still, there may be a situation in which the United States will have to choose between two evils, the worst evil being the UNSC imposing sanctions on Israel—which I cannot believe will happen—while the party that in fact caused all this, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and their allies, comes out clean of the whole affair.

[Golan] Do you say you do not believe the UNSC will impose sanctions on Israel because you know that the Clinton administration adheres to the promise—which you reported in the past—to veto any decision on sanctions against Israel?

[Shoval] I was given no promises by the new administration, but I am convinced that, just like the outgoing administration, the new one wants to avoid this option. What it will decide eventually when it is called upon to make that decision is not for me to say. At the same time, I cannot say that I am not optimistic.

[Golan] Ambassador Shoval, how do you view the future of our bilateral relations with the Americans? Will the Clinton administration continue granting Israel the same annual defense and civil aid of some $3 billion, or will a reform take place soon, as the Senate is already discussing?

[Shoval] Certainly, there will be no changes in the near future. The aid for the current budgetary year, and the next one as well I believe, has already been guaranteed. Regarding the details of the aid, I believe that the new administration also has no intention of questioning the defense aid in any way. The new administration—mainly the Pentagon but also the State Department—is deeply aware of the fact that a strong Israel that can defend itself is an American interest as well. As for the civilian aid, we will naturally not initiate anything. The United States has its own socioeconomic reality. Senior U.S. legislators have stated, in the past and again recently, that there is a need for a certain revision of foreign aid—without mentioning Israel in particular. I believe that Israel should be aware of the fact that this might happen, and I had already warned about this. [passage omitted]

## Press on Clinton's Middle East Appointments

*TA2401135993*

[Editorial Report] In their 24 January editions several Israeli papers carry commentaries on President Clinton's new appointments, with a special focus on their implications for Israel and for the Middle East peace process.

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew in a page-B1 commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar, entitled "The Deportees' Contribution to Peace," begins by describing the tough dilemma Clinton is now facing on the deportee issue. HA'ARETZ says that "Clinton will have to choose between supporting tough steps against Israel or reemploying the veto weapon, which has not been used for two years," noting that "if he lets the Arabs recruit the United Nations to inflict another blow on Israel, Clinton will anger his many supporters among U.S. Jewry" and may "lose a great deal of the sympathy and trust he enjoys among the many Israelis who internalized the anti-Bush propaganda."

"On the other hand," HA'ARETZ writes, "if he uses the veto umbrella to shield Israel, Clinton will dispel the atmosphere of international unity against aggressors and human rights abusers that was consolidated by his predecessor" and "may even freeze the peace process." Therefore, HA'ARETZ concludes, "the first task confronting the new administration's Middle East experts will be to stop the ball from rolling to a dead end."

The paper goes on to cite three appointments of Middle East specialists: Samuel Lewis, Martin Indyk, and Richard Schifter. HA'ARETZ notes that "these three were experts at walking the thin line between loyalty to American interests in the region and sensitivity to Israel's security requirements and the limits of its internal consensus." In an allusion to Shamir's animosity for the "self-hating Jews" of the Bush administration, HA'ARETZ notes that Indyk's career blossomed at AIPAC's [American Israel Public Affairs Committee] research department. The paper writes that it will be hard to convince people that Indyk would "abandon his people to curry favor with the goyim who pay him his salary." Samuel Lewis, who was "Begin's favorite," publicly called for a light-handed treatment of Israel, while Schifter resigned from his senior State Department position, claiming that Baker "had not shown enough understanding for Israel's problems."

HA'ARETZ reassures its readers that the fears expressed by devotees of the peace process in Israel that with the change of administrations there will be a severe dearth of experienced, knowledgeable, and ambitious Middle East experts capable of "translating the Madrid process into peace treaties" were unfounded because "the decision to retain four out of the five Bush administration experts, including Dennis Ross, who was made special adviser on Middle East affairs, is an indication of the Middle East's high priority on the new administration's agenda." The paper notes that the fact that Edward Djerejian also kept his position shows that "continuity in the peace process is more important to Warren Christopher than partisan obligations." HA'ARETZ then goes on to enumerate Lewis' and Indyk's impressive qualifications on Middle East affairs, concluding that the Clinton administration has put together "an energetic team that may force the peace process both on Yitzhaq Rabin and on Bill Clinton." The paper says that Lewis and Indyk both subscribe to the approach that Israel should be led toward making compromises only along paths of its own choosing and asserts that "they will submit their own position papers on West Bank autonomy or security arrangements on the Golan Heights only after they are convinced that the option of direct negotiations has been completely exhausted." However, HA'ARETZ concludes that the "deportations may make Clinton's and Christopher's men show the bite even before the opening of the first round of talks under their sponsorship."

In a commentary on page 9 in Hebrew entitled "Optimism Without Enthusiasm," DAVAR's Daniyel Bloch lavishes praise on President Clinton's Jewish appointments, stressing that "most of them are Jews who are not ashamed of their origin, involved in various ways in the Jewish community and various Jewish organizations, and evince a close personal relationship with Israel." Bloch comments that from Israel's point of view "one can be positively impressed by the positions held by these people, who want to further the peace process without compromising Israel's security needs." Bloch remarks that "from the viewpoint of the peace process the most significant factor is Edward Djerejian remaining in the post of assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs." Bloch praises Djerejian's expertise and professionalism and notes the fact that "he has established relations of trust and understanding with all the sides."

Bloch notes the appointment of Sam Lewis as director of the State Department's policy planning staff. Bloch recalls Lewis' days as U.S. ambassador to Israel, noting that he "loves and understands Israel and feels at home with Israeli politicians of all trends and parties, although he is primarily a U.S. diplomat who serves U.S. interests."

Bloch goes on to note the temporary appointment of Dennis Ross as special adviser to the secretary of state, commenting that this was done "for the purpose of resuming the peace process." Turning to the appointment of Martin Indyk to the post of National Security Council official in charge of Arab-Israeli affairs, Bloch cautions his readers not to be over enthusiastic, claiming "he is a conservative and an extreme hawk who has shifted his alliance opportunistically from the Republicans to the Democrats." According to Bloch during his work for AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee] Indyk has shown himself to be devoted to Likud policies. Bloch wonders why Clinton appointed him, and advises Clinton and his men, the Israelis and the Arabs all "to be wary of him."

Regarding the question of a new ambassador to Israel, Bloch remarks that the appointment of Richard Schifter to the post, if confirmed, would be a blessing for Israel. Bloch notes Schifter's intimate contacts with Israel, observing that although he has often been critical of Israeli foreign policy and human rights issues, "it will certainly be possible to develop relations of trust with him, although he will primarily be a representative of U.S. interests and faithful to U.S. policy."

Bloch sums up by stating that the general picture is encouraging, and that "there is room for hope and optimism, on condition that we facilitate the peace process and avoid in future serious mistakes like the mass deportation affair."

## First Public Israeli, Syrian Meeting in Berlin

*TA2401065393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Report by Yig'al Avidan from Berlin]

[Text] Official representatives from Israel and Syria met for the first time publicly Friday evening in Berlin. The meeting between Deputy Agriculture Minister Walid Sadiq and Sulayman Haddad, Syria's ambassador in Germany, was held during a reception hosted by the German president at his residence in Berlin.

Sadiq said that the Syrian ambassador expressed his readiness to have the meeting made public. Haddad also had a message for the people of Israel: The Syrians want true, just, and viable peace; that is their strategy, not just a tactical goal being pursued for other reasons. Sadiq reported that he was surprised by the Syrian's openness, who explained that Syria is determined to prevent another war and therefore wants peace. Nevertheless, we should not expect Damascus to agree in the near future to full peace and an exchange of ambassadors but only to begin changing Syrian public opinion toward Israel. Haddad also told Sadiq that Syria has no doubt that the Golan Heights belongs to it, but he said that arrangements can be reached as long as Israel does not expect the impossible. During Sadiq's visit to the international agriculture show, he said he was received with open arms at the various Arab exhibitions.

## Rabinovich on Latest Syrian Statements on Talks

*TA2401171493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam says Syria is interested in continuing the peace process despite the fact that no progress has been made in negotiations with Israel. Khaddam emphasized Syria is unwilling to host Israeli leaders because the state of war between the two countries has not ended. Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck reports:

[Begin recording] [Beck] Syrian Vice President Khaddam says Damascus does not want the deportees affair to harm the resumption of the peace talks next month. In an interview with the Saudi newspaper AL-WASAT, Khaddam said, quote: No progress has been achieved in the negotiations with Israel. We are still at the starting point. However, this does not mean that the peace process has reached a dead end or has failed. Syria will continue with the negotiations, and if we receive results we will be satisfied for having attained our national goals. If we do not reach this, we will obviously stop the talks. According to Khaddam, Syria is not considering hosting senior Israeli representatives, including Prime Minister Rabin, because the two countries are still in a state of war, and the reasons for this are still valid.

Professor Itamar Rabinovich, head of the Israeli team for talks with Syria, remarks that the significant point in Khaddam's comments is the Syrian position in favor of continuing the negotiations in the present conditions:

[Rabinovich, in progress]...the statement that there is no dead end and that we can achieve progress. We must regard Khaddam's comments in the present context, meaning that the talks have recessed almost six weeks ago and no date has been scheduled for the next meeting. It is somewhat difficult to be very optimistic. Khaddam's remarks have their less attractive features, but it certainly includes positive elements.

[Beck] Regarding the effects of President al-Asad's health on the future of the peace process, Professor Rabinovich comments:

[Rabinovich] In a state ruled by one person, this person's health effects any internal or foreign political issue relating to that country. However, to the best of my knowledge so far we are only dealing with rumors concerning al-Asad's health rather than with his real health. I do not think that this will immediately effect the peace process. The very need to think about the health of a leader is obviously one of the things a country takes into consideration when it conducts negotiations with another country. However, we regard the al-Asad regime as stable. [end recording]

## Envoy to UN Assesses Chances of Sanctions

*TA2401062693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Report by Arye Golan in Washington]

[Text] The United States, and in its wake, Britain, Russia, Japan, and New Zealand are prepared to wait for the High Court of Justice in Jerusalem to rule on the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees before convening the Security Council. From meetings held over the weekend by Gad Ya'aqobi, Israel's ambassador at the United Nations, with the ambassadors from Spain and Denmark, it appears that these two nonpermanent Council members are also prepared to wait for the court ruling. There are signs that Secretary General Butrus-Ghali is also not in a hurry. The Security Council debate on Israel's refusal to return the deportees according to Resolution 799 will therefore be held only late in the week.

The question is, of course, what will happen in the debate. First, what is not expected to happen: The Israeli delegation believes that at this stage there will not be an initiative to impose sanctions. In the first stage, the Security Council will fix a timetable and give Israel two or three weeks to annul the deportations. Only then will the issue of sanctions on Israel be brought up, and again only if there is no change in the situation.

If that happens, will the United States impose a veto to prevent sanctions being imposed on Israel for the first time in its history? Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi said this morning that President Bill Clinton will decide whether the United States will impose a veto.

[Begin Ya'aqobi recording] We do not want the Council to discuss sanctions. We have reason to believe that even if the Council session takes place later in the week, it will at most discuss a timetable for implementing the Council resolution and not go beyond that. All the rest depends on a decision by the U.S. President. Even the heads of the U.S. delegation here do not yet know what the President's position will be if and when the issue of sanctions on Israel proposed by members of the Nonaligned Bloc and a group of Arab countries comes up. [end recording]

It is estimated, however, that to prevent the new U.S. President from facing a difficult dilemma on the veto issue, the United States will try to convince Security Council members to make do with a very sharp denunciation of Israel without an operational clause containing sanctions. Since the ambassadors of other Council members are also not interested in causing too much trouble for Yitzhaq Rabin's moderate government and thereby harming the peace talks, the U.S. move might succeed. That, anyway, is what the ambassadors told Ambassador Ya'aqobi.

## British Helicopters Fly Out 17 Detainees

### Arrive in Haifa

*NC2301080293 Nicosia CYPRUS NEWS AGENCY in English 0720 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] Nicosia, Jan 23 (CNA)—Three Royal Air Force helicopters which left the RAF base of Akrotiri in Cyprus early Saturday morning, arrived in Haifa, Israel, Major Rocky Hitchcock, British bases spokesman, told the CYPRUS NEWS AGENCY this morning.

"The three Wessex, carrying 15 men on board, are now in Haifa and waiting instructions from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to fly out four officials to the Palestinian deportees' camp," he said.

The mission, entitled "Operation Befriend", is expected to be completed today, Hitchcock added.

Mike Faulkner, commanding officer of the 84th Squadron in RAF Akrotiri, is personally flying one of the aircraft.

One of the helicopters will take four ICRC officials, including a doctor and medical supplies, to the camp and return with any repatriated deportees to wait further instructions, the major said.

Britain retains two military bases in Cyprus according to the terms of the treaty of establishment of the Republic of Cyprus in 1960 after the island gained its independence from British rule.

### Two Helicopters Return Without Deportees

*TA2301110793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] The two British Royal Air Force helicopters that flew this morning to the deportees encampment returned to the Haifa Airport without bringing those deported by mistake with them.

Our correspondents Yo'av Aviv and Nati Zilberman have learned from Lebanese sources that six Red Cross staffers were left behind in the camp, and that they include medics with medical supplies.

The helicopters carried 800 censored letters sent to the deportees by their family members. It appears that the British helicopters came back to Haifa for refueling and are said to be flying again to the deportees' camp, north of the security zone, to bring back the Red Cross men.

### Seventeen Deportees Brought Back

*TA2301162393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] Three British Royal Air Force helicopters have landed in Haifa with 17 deportees on board. Of them, 13 were deported mistakenly and four are ill. This was the second flight by the British helicopters to the deportees' encampment in south Lebanon. This morning two helicopters returned without bringing any of the deportees.

### Thirteen Detaineees Returned to Israel

*TA2301195993 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Excerpts] Three Royal Air Force helicopters took off from Cyprus this morning to return to Israel the 13 Palestinians who were mistakenly deported to Lebanon. The helicopters landed in Haifa, and again took off with an International Red Cross [IRC] team and medical equipment. Our correspondents Moti Kohen and 'Amos Karmeli report that the helicopters were directed into Lebanese territory by Israeli Air Force radio operators. The helicopters landed near the deportees' encampment in Marj al-Zuhur and later returned to Haifa. In the afternoon they returned to Lebanon to pick up the IRC officials and 17 deportees—13 who were mistakenly deported and 4 others who, according to the IRC physician, require medical treatment in Israel. Our military correspondent Beni Liss reports:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman this evening said that the deportees will be returned to the locations and status they possessed prior to the deportation: seven will be reincarcerated, four will be interned in lockup facilities, and two will return home. This afternoon the deportees were returned to Israeli territory by the IRC. They were taken to an IDF camp where they were received by IRC and British Embassy personnel. The IDF intends to disperse them already this evening to the locations from where they were taken on the eve of the deportation. [end recording]

### IRC Wants 4 Hospitalized

*TA2401055593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] Only two of the 13 Palestinians expelled by mistake, who were flown to Israel yesterday, will be allowed to return to their homes. The others will either be returned to prison or continue their terms of administrative detention.

Meanwhile, the International Red Cross [IRC] are pressing Israel to allow four more of the deportees to be treated in hospital. Mark Weiss reports.

[Begin Weiss recording] Two of the 13 deportees who were returned to Israel by helicopter yesterday will be questioned and then returned home in the next few days. The two are both residents of the Gaza Strip. The rest will be interned, according to the policy of returning the deportees to the status they had before they were expelled. One will be sent to al-Fari'ah prison near Nabulus, five to the Megiddo prison, and the rest to Qezi'ot in the Negev.

Two of the Palestinians that Israel said were expelled by mistake chose to remain at the deportees camp yesterday in an act of solidarity. The two are a man who has already been sentenced to a jail term and another person that is due to stand trial and can expect to receive a life sentence.

Officials from the IRC said they will continue to press Israel to allow four more deportees to leave the makeshift camp for medical treatment. Yesterday, the IRC doctor recommended that eight of the men leave for hospital, but Israel only agreed to four. Those four are currently being treated at Marj 'Uyun Hospital inside the security zone.

There are now 396 Palestinian deportees at the tent camp. Fourteen who were deported by mistake have been returned, and five are being treated in hospital. Tomorrow, seven High Court judges will hand down their ruling on the legality of the deportation. [end recording]

### Mistakenly Deported Said Still in Camp

*TA2401123393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] The Betzelem organization says an investigation it conducted shows that there are still dozens of people mistakenly deported in the deportees' tent camp. Betzelem director Yizhar E'er told our correspondent Moti Amir that some were expelled without an order while others were given two expulsion orders for different periods.

### Rabin Said Looking for Way Out of Deportation Problem

*TA2401101493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Telephone interview with Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] You heard Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, who said that remarks made outside the cabinet room gravely damage Israel's information campaign and the cabinet's ability to act.

[Sarid] First, permit me to make clear my position because I want it to be absolutely clear. I am opposed to returning the deportees to Israel, but I am in favor of government efforts to untangle the mess created by the deportations. Without bringing the deportees back, there are still various ways to lift the international pressure from Israel, and by doing that, to remove the entire affair from the television screens to enable the peace negotiations to be reconvened on time.

[Einstein] In which direction are those efforts directed? There they aimed at shortening the expulsion terms or humanitarian gestures?

[Sarid] I do not think we can make do with humanitarian gestures, but I do not want to go into detail because I believe they should not be discussed in the media. The expulsions, even if justified and essential, and that is what I think they were, resulted in a series of problems, which have to be resolved, and a solution does not, from my viewpoint, mean a retreat from the cabinet decision. Was there a cabinet decision not to resolve problems cropping up with time?

In reference to the remarks about making views known outside the cabinet room, I do not say outside the cabinet room what I do not say inside, and with due respect, I believe the Israel Television poll aroused superfluous and totally unjustified excitement. To tell the truth, I did not like the blanket of anonymity surrounding the answers. I personally do not have a secret answer and one public one. I have one answer, and I insisted that it be made public. I suspect that many of my ministerial colleagues also said that they are in favor of some sort of compromise to untangle the mess. That does not mean they have regrets about the cabinet's original decision. That reading into their positions was to some extent misleading since it is clear that if we want to get rid of the entire episode, Israel also has to play its part because the affair will not disappear on its own.

Therefore, the impression that there is a confrontation between the prime minister and 10 of his ministers and that the prime minister is in a minority in his cabinet is, in my view, baseless. Is the prime minister not searching for a way out? I am sure he is, and he will find one.

## Ben-Eli'ezer Supports Original Decision on Deportees

*TA2401083993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] There are growing reports that the number of cabinet ministers who support returning most of the deportees, or even all of them, before the expulsion terms expire, is increasing. Are there second thoughts in the cabinet on that?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] It is no secret, and I suppose that everybody in Israel knows from the poll taken, that there are those who believe that there should be a reconsideration. I am not one of the them. I always believed that everything that should have been considered and discussed should have been done before the decision was made. The moment we made the decision, I do not believe there should be any need or reason to retreat. There is a possibility of undertaking some humanitarian move. We did what we did in recent days, including the issue of medical treatment. In reference, however, to the decision in principle, we must remember why the government took that step. We did it, as we have already said, because we faced the question whether we want the peace process or not, and whether we want the terrorist unrest among Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists to continue. That was...

[Einstein, interrupting] The ministers who want to change the decision will say that Hamas activity has not been quelled—the fact is that there have been more incidents—and furthermore, the deportations aroused very sharp international reaction to Israel.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] As someone who knows the area, not that I scoff at those who have a different view, I can say that our move caused a very harsh shock in the field because the infrastructure on the political, religious, and operational levels was uprooted. It is true that that is insufficient to guarantee 100 percent that the activity will cease completely. But, in general I believe it was a sharp blow, and in the long run it will bring about results.

[Einstein] What do you say about the fact that many ministers are willing to say what they think on this issue outside the cabinet room?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I would like to tell you that it is one of the causes of weakness, but in my view, and I say that with great regret, the outside developments are influenced by many things, including the fact that there are those among the ministers who are having second thoughts. For anybody with second thoughts, there is only one place for him make them known, and that is around the cabinet table. I regret to say that the moment there are signals here of a change, there is no doubt they do not strengthen us but only weaken the Israeli position.

[Einstein] Is a decision possible that will change the original decision, that will shorten the expulsion terms?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Only one thing can change that, and that is a High Court of Justice ruling. We are subject to the rule of law, and whatever the price and no matter how painful it is, the moment the court rules we will obey it.

## Poll Shows Many Ministers Favor Deportee Compromise

*TA2201204093 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1830 GMT 22 Jan 93*

[Talk in the studio between anchorman Yisra'el Segal and political correspondent Gadi Sukenik—live]

[Excerpt] [Segal] More than half the cabinet ministers today support a compromise on the issue of the deportees—even if this means returning them to their homes before the termination of the original deportation period—contrary to the adamant position of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. This stems from a survey conducted by our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik among all the cabinet members. Ten ministers said there is a new situation which calls for a real change in the deportation decision, seven ministers said Israel must adhere to the original deportation decision at all costs, and one minister refused to participate in the survey. All the ministers agreed to answer on condition of anonymity.

With me in the studio is our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik. Good evening to you. What were the alternatives you presented to the ministers?

[Sukenik] Good evening. What we are talking about is the government decision made a little over a month ago to deport more than 400 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members to Lebanon. That decision was made unanimously, with one abstention. The choices I presented to the ministers were as follows: 1) To implement the original decision without any consideration for what has happened since than; 2) To return the deportees home immediately; 3) To reach some kind of compromise entailing the return home of many or all of the deportees before the termination of their deportation periods. These were the three alternatives presented to the ministers.

[Segal] How did they reply?

[Sukenik] Well, contrary to the almost unanimous vote carried last month, under the present circumstances 10 ministers are willing to return the deportees home, gradually and in stages, before the termination of the deportation period.

[Segal] We are talking of a compromise solution here.

[Sukenik] Yes. On the other hand, seven ministers insist on implementing the original decision, claiming that what happened in the meantime does not make any difference. These ministers believe that the deportees should serve their full expulsion periods. One minister refused to answer.

[Segal] Who is this minister?

[Sukenik] Shim'on Shetrit. This is the only name I will divulge, because he abstained.

[Segal] Why did he refuse to answer?

[Sukenik] He said this survey was improper, and that ministers should not participate in such a survey. Shetrit said that this issue should be discussed in the cabinet and that it is a sensitive issue which will undoubtedly be the most important issue in the next few weeks. Consequently, he refused to answer. My feeling is, however, that he could have gone either way.

[Segal] Did the ministers who said the decision should be changed express any regrets regarding their original decision, or did they maintain that it was a good decision at the time which has to be changed now?

[Sukenik] Based on my talks with all the ministers I can say that most of them believe their original decision was correct in view of its contribution to improving the security situation. The problem is that the international circumstances have completely changed. There is extremely strong pressure by Europe and the UN Security Council, and Israel is expecting some kind of U.S. pressure as well. The peace process appears to have been derailed, and remedying this situation is what they view as most significant.

[Segal] Based on your knowledge, if the issue is put to a vote by the cabinet will these ministers carry the day?

[Sukenik] Absolutely not. Our survey was secret. Cabinet votes, however, are conducted openly and then the prime minister's authority is paramount. I would not gamble on the result in case any of the ministers or the prime minister bring a compromise proposal. It is very probable that Rabin—who at this point is firmly against any compromise on the deportees issue—would obtain the necessary majority in the cabinet. [passage omitted]

## Rabin Said Angry Over Survey

*TA2401161793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today reprimanded cabinet ministers for participating in the television survey regarding the solution to the deportees affair. The Meretz ministers who met Rabin today requested a discussion on the deportees affair following the High Court of Justice debate on the appeals scheduled for tomorrow. Political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

[Begin recording] [Gutman] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is extremely angry about the television survey but did not disclose his feelings during today's cabinet session. Rabin devoted only a few sentences to the deportees affair. This is what he told the ministers: I am extremely dissatisfied with this anonymous survey. Rabin added that it degraded the ministers and requested that they refrain from participating in such surveys in the future. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres added that the survey was totally unnecessary. However, the question is whether this survey—which indicated that 10 out of 18 ministers support a compromise on the deportees issue—will bring about any changes in the government's decisions. The answer to this question is apparently negative. This at least is the opinion of Ministers Shohat, Shetrit, and Ramon who spoke following the cabinet session:

[Shohat] I think that any changes in the government decisions would have to be based on cabinet discussions rather than on this or that survey conducted by this or that correspondent. Therefore, I believe that although this survey received wide media coverage, it carries no practical significance for government decisions.

[Shetrit] I think that any serious discussion of this issue before the High Court of Justice debate can be embarrassing because some people could have indeed changed their minds due to various developments.

[Ramon] A return of the deportees now would constitute a tremendous victory for Hamas and a blow to Israel's security. I also believe it would constitute a death blow to the peace process.

[Gutman] After the cabinet session, Meretz ministers held a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and discussed possible solutions to the deportees affair. The ministers asked Rabin to hold a cabinet session on the deportees affair after the High Court of Justice ruling is issued. [end recording]

## Deputy Foreign Minister Discusses Deportations

*NC2201203193 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 14 Jan 93 p 5*

[Interview with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Hasan Fu'ad and Hidayat 'Abd-al-Nabi; place and date not given]

[Text] [Question] Mass deportation will not help Israel. It will only exacerbate an already tense situation and lead to further violence. What is your comment?

[Beilin] I do not think that we are considering who is in favor or against the mass punishment. If anyone in Israel is against such measures, it is our party. We voiced our opposition to deportations four years ago. The problem facing us is that we are the most moderate Israeli Government and are facing a wave of terror that surfaced because progress was achieved in the peace process. The question we face is how to deal with this wave and make it clear that the most moderate government cannot compromise the security of its citizens or turn a blind eye [to attacks against them]. The fact that the current government is a moderate one does not mean that anyone can do as he likes.

The question is: Is this the best solution, namely, temporary deportation for a period ranging between nine months to two years? No. It is not the best solution, but we are selecting among bad, not good, alternatives. The idea of capital punishment was brought up, but I am absolutely opposed to this. There are, however, people who support this idea, including members of my party. The issue was one of showing that an Israeli Government can be very moderate regarding peaceful solutions and at the same time be very firm on terror. We are not the only country in the world faced with terror. Many countries are faced with extremism. No regime in the world does not deal with extremism harshly. We are not happy with mass deportations. It is against our values, but we had no better method to deal with the issue.

The problem is not just that extremism affects the peace process. The problem is also that terrorists believe they can get do anything. Now they will understand that when they terrorize us, we will answer back. This does not mean that this measure will completely end terrorism or scare the terrorists from the police and the Israeli army; however, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] will understand that this moderate government can and will take action.

[Question] Your actions did not resolve anything.

[Beilin] It is not a matter of resolving anything. The matter will always remain a political one. We do not believe that military solutions, deportation, or destroying homes will resolve anything, end the intifadah, or end terrorism. Political solutions are the only way to create conditions under which they [extremists] become a minority that has no public support. But in the current situation, as we negotiate in earnest and are ready to pay the price of peace, we are not ready to be stabbed, not in the next few months—and we hope it will only be a matter of months—of negotiations. We would lose the Israeli support in the peace process if we did not take a stand against terrorism. The public would say: You have promised us with peace and security. What happened? There is no peace or security.

Our position is more difficult than before. No Israeli Government would have acted differently. Measures had to be taken. There are no good measures when it comes to fighting terrorism. We are not proud of the measures. The current situation is an abnormal one. In the past 25 years, Israel has expelled Palestinians to Jordan and Lebanon and these two countries accepted the deportees and provided them with shelter for unlimited periods of time. This is the first time in Lebanon's history that it has rejected the deportees. Lebanon has created a situation of food and water shortages and a situation of suffering and hell [for the deportees]. Lebanon could have told the deportees: Israel has made an erroneous decision, but you are brothers and we will give you food and shelter. Lebanon has created an abnormal situation.

[Question] Lebanon created this situation?

[Beilin] Yes. The Lebanese.

[Question] This is not a Lebanese problem; Lebanon did not create it.

[Beilin] You are right. What I am saying is that over the past 25 years, Israel got used to neighborly Arab countries receiving Palestinian deportees. Lebanon decided not to accept them and created a bad situation for them. We did not send them to that area to suffer in the snow.

[Question] Why were the deportees taken to this area and not to the security zone you occupy in Lebanon, where food, water, and medicines are available?

[Beilin] That is a technical matter. It did not occur to us that the Lebanese would show the world the suffering and reality of Israel's decision to deport the Palestinians. We did not take this into consideration because we did not imagine that the Lebanese would not accept them. There is a new situation. You can say that this was a wise Lebanese decision from your point of view. However, we believe that this decision created an abnormal situation. We did not want the deportees to go through this sort of suffering. A new situation has been created for which we cannot blame the Lebanese. Public opinion, however, should realize that the deportees have become victims of the media. When they were deported to Lebanese territory, we said we would not be responsible for them anymore.

[Question] How do you not feel responsible? You decided to deport them.

[Beilin] You are trying to convince me that the decision to deport them was erroneous. I agree with you. We must work together to end the situation that forces us to make such decisions.

[Question] I would like to go back to the Red Cross issue. Israel deported these Palestinians. Why does it not allow the Red Cross to provide them with food, water, and medicine? This is international support I'm talking about, not support from Israel.

[Beilin] I will sum up Israel's position: Deportation puts the deportees on foreign soil. Because the situation is abnormal, we said we would open a crossing point if Lebanon does the same. The deportees are under Lebanese sovereignty, so why do they not open a crossing point for them?

[Question] Why should they open a crossing point? This is not their responsibility. Israel deported them; it is Israel's, not Lebanon's, responsibility.

[Beilin] We are not responsible for them under Israeli law. Once they are deported, we are not responsible for them.

[Question] But you deported them.

[Beilin] It is crazy logic, but it is our logic. We will open a crossing point if Lebanon does. This is the logic of the deportations.

[Question] You say that numerous countries combat terrorism, but these countries are not occupation authorities. The situation in Israel is that there is an occupier and people are struggling against that occupation. They are struggling against those who usurped their freedom.

[Beilin] These are not freedom fighters.

[Question] They are struggling for their freedom.

[Beilin] Are the Imbabah terrorists struggling for their freedom?

[Question] Egypt is not occupying Imbabah. We are the same country, led by a sovereign government. Israel, however, is occupying the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

[Beilin] If these people are strugglers and their struggle means killing me, I will deport them.

[Question] Then they have the right to retaliate. If they do not achieve their freedom, they will continue to kill Israelis.

[Beilin] My only answer is that I will do all I can for peace. If the issue is their right to kill me, however, I will kill them first.

[Question] You say you defend peace. The Palestinian delegation negotiating with Israel halted talks when the deportation took place. This proves that there is unity in the Palestinian position between the moderates and extremists against the occupation authorities.

[Beilin] (He replied with a Palestinian dialect) So, is that why?

[Question] You need to solve the problem of occupation.

[Beilin] I do not have a better answer than that regarding solving the problem of occupation. Thus, I must reach peace. Previous Israeli governments opted for peace without paying the price. The current government wants to make peace and is ready to pay its price. What is the price? The occupied territories. So, we are ready to pay the price of the territories. They, the deportees, say that peace with Israel is the wrong approach and that all of Israel must be wiped off the face of the earth. You say that they have a right to fight for their freedom. If this is their right, I am going to stand against it. If deportation is one of the means of this battle, I will use it. Hamas does not accept a Palestinian state alongside Israel and believes this is a cardinal sin because it would legitimize the Zionist presence. They say the PLO was wrong to accept this idea. They say that the Jews and a Jewish state have no right to exist here. So, the issue is not one of struggling for independence. The issue is that they do not want us to exist. You know that there are limits to my position, within the framework of what is known as moderation and the doves. When it comes to a threat against my family, my sons, myself, my land, I will stand against it.

[Question] Desperation leads to the birth of movements such as Hamas.

[Beilin] You are right, but what does that mean?

[Question] They are desperate. The measure taken as the lesser of two evils will create greater evils for you and the entire region.

[Beilin] I am not an advocate of the deportation policy. You should have chosen someone better to defend it.

[Question] I would not have discussed this issue with anyone but you because you are known for your pro-peace stand.

[Beilin] You are talking about desperation, poverty also leads to desperation. For people like us the issue is how to remedy the effects of desperation. As you have said, I am an advocate of peace. There is another side in the conflict which has rights, as part of the equal rights for both parties. What it deserves, you deserve; what is your sons' right is their sons' right. But they, Hamas, say: It is my right only, not yours. You are an artificial entity in this part of the world and you must evaporate. Now you say it is desperation. Can I ignore it or live with it because the main reason is desperation? I want to create a situation in which there is peace, not desperation. However, when these people turn to evil and become extremists I cannot stand still and say: What can I do? They are doing this because of desperation. Shall I wait until they kill me and continue the terrorism? I, as a government, must show my people that I am capable of acting in such circumstances. You may be right to say that desperation could lead to more violence in the region, but these people must realize that this government is handling peace moderately but it cannot handle extremism moderately. Security is the most important thing for everybody. One of the reasons for the Likud's failure is that they failed to provide security for the people.

[Question] What you call "terrorism" is, in Israel's case, a phenomenon created by the occupation; it cannot be separated from it.

[Beilin] I am ready to give up most of the "territories" and I am certain that these territories are a burden for us. What more can I say?

[Question] What results did you reach during your talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, over the deportees?

[Beilin] We covered some ideas that can be implemented in the future, but I cannot talk about them now. I will convey them to the Israeli foreign minister and prime minister.

[Question] Did they express their absolute rejection of this measure?

[Beilin] I do not want to get into details. They voiced their opposition to this measure.

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## Rabin: Iran Could Have Nuclear Weapon in 10 Years

*TA2001152993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Jan 93*

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin disclosed in the Knesset today that Iran and several other countries in the Middle East have been engaged in an effort to develop a long-range missile which would enable Iran to hit Israel and even more distant countries. The prime minister estimated that the development process would take 5 to 10 years, and noted that North Korea has put missile technology at Iran's disposal. Mr. Rabin called for international cooperation to prevent the proliferation of missile technology and weapons of mass destruction.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the prime minister was replying to a motion to the agenda raised by Efrayim Sne dealing with Iran's nuclear arms development. The prime minister assessed that the Iranians have the qualified manpower and resources to enable it to attain nuclear weapons within 10 years or less.

### King, Syrian President Discuss Arab Issues by Phone

*JN2201201993 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 22 Jan 93*

[Text] His majesty the king telephoned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad tonight. The two leaders exchanged points of views on the current Arab situation, ways to consolidate pan-Arab solidarity, and challenges facing the Arab nation.

### Arabs May 'Lose Patience' if Attacks Persist

*JN2301120693 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Jan 93 pp 1, 16*

[Editorial: "Why the Continued Aggression Against Iraq?"]

[Text] The people of the region and all the people of the world will be bitterly disappointed if, according to the new U.S. secretary of state, the new administration of U.S. President Clinton continues the formula of the previous administration in foreign policy and in dealing with Iraq.

Bush's former administration dealt with regional and international issues, especially issues in our region, with a double standard, using more than one yard stick.

For instance, it launched two destructive wars against Iraq and imposed an unjust embargo on it under the pretext of implementing UN Security Council resolutions. Meanwhile, it avoided disturbing Israel and Serbia, even though they are challenging the international community and paying no heed to UN Security Council resolutions.

It is regrettable that despite the Iraqi initiative of good intentions toward Clinton's era, aimed at giving the new U.S. Administration enough time to assess and rectify the policy of the former Bush administration, this Iraqi initiative was met with new aggressions against Iraq!!

We can say that continued unreserved U.S. support for the rulers of Kuwait's arrogance, impertinence, and grudge-filled penchant for aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation may be very costly for the new Clinton administration.

It is proven that the rulers of Kuwait, who did not respond to calls for peace from Jordan and other sincere Arab capitals to avoid the tragedies of the previous two wars, may continue to beat the drums of war and hold provocative military maneuvers along the Iraqi border. They may continue to mobilize more foreign forces and to stockpile advanced weapons near Iraq, which only portends of new devastating regional conflicts and wars.

The United Nations admitted that Iraq is responding and willing to implement its resolution. The United Nations and permanent UN Security Council member states, headed by the United States, have nothing left to do but stop the aggressions and provocations against Iraq. Otherwise, they will find themselves involved in a new war, for which they can fix a beginning but no end.

This is especially so since the Arab nation, as it watches the continued aggression against Iraq with extreme concern and anger, may lose patience, declare rebellion against its rulers, and stand in Iraq's trench to confront any new U.S.-Western-Zionist-Arab [those allied against Iraq] aggression.

The new U.S. Administration, under Clinton's leadership, should consider this fact immediately, before it is too late.

### U.S. Pro-Israeli Policy, Clinton Staff Viewed

*JN2301125793 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Jan 93 pp 1, 23*

[Editorial: "The Beginning of the New U.S. Era"]

[Text] Special UN envoy Chinmaya Gharekhan has ended his mission in Israel and left without obtaining a positive response from Yitzhaq Rabin on implementing UN Security Council Resolution 799, which stipulates the return of Palestinian deportees to their homes. Hence, three rounds of dialogue on this subject between the United Nations and Israel have failed.

Naturally, the UN envoy will submit a report to the UN secretary general, explaining the results of his mission to Israel, including Rabin's frank rejection of the aforementioned UN Security Council resolution. However, in light of the U.S. policy of protecting Israel's practices, aggression, and ambitions in the region, we do not believe that Butrus-Ghali, the United Nations, or the UN Security Council will be able to take any measure or step to implement the UN Charter by imposing sanctions on Israel, thereby forcing it to comply with UN resolutions.

As evidence for this belief, the series of appointments in the new U.S. Administration, including the naming of seven high-ranking Jewish-American officials to the Department of State and the Defense and National Security Council, indicate that elements in the U.S. Government supporting Israel will play a role in entrenching and continuing—if not showing more commitment to—U.S. Middle East policy in the future.

Arabs pin great hopes on a positive change in U.S. policy toward the Arab-Israeli conflict and issues of the Arab region with Bill Clinton's assumption of power as President of the United States. These hopes are also linked to Bush's departure after all the destruction and wounds he left behind in the region, resulting from his policies based on an imbalance and a lack of credibility in dealing with UN and UN Security Council resolutions, of the international organization's method of controlling and exercising hegemony over the region's resources, and of protecting Israel from the United Nations and its resolutions and charters.

Signs emerging with the start of the new U.S. era, in terms of continuing the hostile stand toward Iraq, ignoring Israel's practices and challenges to international legitimacy, and increasing Zionist influence in the U.S. Government, all confront Arab decisionmakers and leaders with a new reality that should be approached with caution and seriousness. This is especially so since the continuing Arab reality—marked by division, fragmentation, and disputes—will not be conducive to our nation's ability to confront any new schemes against its existence, resources, and future generations.

### Spanish Foreign Minister, Delegation Arrive 20 Jan

*JN2101072693 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 20 Jan 93*

[Text] Spanish Foreign Affairs Minister Javier Solana arrived in Amman tonight on an official four-day visit to Jordan at the head of a delegation of several high-ranking Spanish Foreign Ministry officials.

During his visit, the Spanish minister will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir. He will also hold talks with Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir on relations between the two friendly countries and a number of regional and international issues, at the head of which are recent developments in the Gulf region and efforts made to achieve a just peace in the Middle East.

During the visit, the Jordanian and Spanish sides will sign an economic and technical cooperation agreement.

Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir and a number of high-ranking officials received the Spanish foreign minister at Amman's civil airport.

In statements to reporters, the Spanish foreign minister expressed happiness over his visit to Jordan, and said that it is aimed at bolstering bilateral relations as well as exchanging viewpoints and consultations on peace efforts in the region. He added that Spain's stand can be summed in the need to implement all UN Security Council Resolutions dealing with the Gulf crisis. He expressed his hope that the peace process will continue and that it will realize its goals in achieving a just regional peace.

For his part, Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir welcomed the visit of his Spanish counterpart which he said is aimed at reinforcing bilateral relations.

### Bin-Shakir Receives Delegation

*JN2101210993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Jan 93*

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received Spanish Foreign Affairs Minister Javier Solana and his accompanying delegation at the Prime Ministry at noon today.

A meeting was also held with the guest minister at the Foreign Ministry, during which a protocol for technical, scientific, and economic cooperation was signed between Jordan and Spain.

Details of the activities of the Spanish minister are outlined in the report prepared by our correspondent Jawad al-'Umari.

[Begin recording] [Al-'Umari] During the meeting between Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and Spanish Foreign Affairs Minister Javier Solana, they reviewed the overall Jordanian-Spanish ties, the Middle East situation, and Jordan's position on the regional peace process.

Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, who attended the meeting, spoke to our radio on the most important issues discussed during this meeting. [Abu-Jabir] As a matter of fact, the prime minister reviewed with the guest minister the overall bilateral ties, the current Middle East situation, and the need for Israel to immediately comply with Resolution 799. The prime minister told the Spanish minister that Jordan is committed to the peace process on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy, which provide for exchanging territory for peace, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338.

[Al-'Umari] The Jordanian side headed by Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir and the Spanish side headed by Javier Solana had held a meeting at the Foreign Ministry this morning. The two countries' delegations attended. During the meeting, the two sides signed an agreement for bilateral cooperation in various fields. Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir spoke to reporters on the importance of this agreement and the bilateral talks.

[Abu-Jabir] It is a move, among many others, meant to enhance ties between Spain and Jordan. As you are well aware, the ties are special and excellent. His Majesty Juan Carlos and His Majesty King Husayn are friends. Furthermore, indeed, there are special ties binding our two countries. We discussed bilateral issues and ties. With regard to regional issues, we discussed the negotiations, the peace process, the painful situation of the deportees, and the need for Israel to comply with Security Council Resolution 799.

[Al-'Umari] In reply to a question on Spain's stand vis-a-vis the issue of Palestinian deportees, Dr. Abu-Jabir said: [Abu-Jabir] I believe that the Spanish minister answered a question in this regard when he said that he has a standpoint toward this issue, and noted that Israel must comply with the aforementioned Security Council resolution. He added that Spain will do its best to obtain this compliance. [end recording]

### Solana on Deportees

*LD2101201393 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1900 GMT 21 Jan 93*

[Text] Foreign Minister Javier Solana is in Jordan and he said there that the deportations of Palestinians are illegal. Solana expressed his wish that the Middle East peace process should not fail and he said that Israel must allow those expelled to return to their homes.

[Begin Solana recording] We believe that Resolution 799, which speaks of the Palestinian deportees, must be fulfilled and that therefore these people must be permitted to return to their homes. [end recording]

### Solana Optimistic About Peace

*LD2101224693 Madrid TVE Internacional Television in Spanish 2000 GMT 21 Jan 93*

[Text] Foreign Minister Javier Solana has expressed his optimism about the future of the peace negotiations between Arabs and Israelis which are at present blocked as a result of the deportation of over 400 Palestinians to southern Lebanon. Solana made these statements in Amman where he has met the prime minister and the foreign minister of Jordan and the Spanish ambassadors in the countries of the Near East.

[Special correspondent in Amman Amalia S. Sampedro] The Spanish government has made clear in Amman that it feels involved with the Arab cause and is ready to continue to promote the peace process in the region and to defend it in all the international forums. Minister Javier Solana is optimistic and is confident that some initiative will come about which will boost a process which he regards as irreversible. Javier Solana explored the real possibilities of peace with the Spanish ambassadors in the region. The diplomatic representatives in the countries of the Middle East and the consul in Jerusalem gave the Minister dossiers with privileged information which Solana will take on 1 February to a meeting of the Community foreign ministers with Shim'on Peres. Spain, which has already called in the United Nations for pressure to be exerted on Israel on the problem of the Palestinian deportees in Lebanon, hopes for a new initiative to resolve this conflict. [Video shows Sampedro speaking to camera, Solana meeting ambassadors in Amman, Solana speaking to reporters]

[Begin Solana recording] Spain believes that it is a decision which is illegal, that it is a decision which does not help the development of the problems of the region and that it is a decision which is unacceptable from the humanitarin point of view either. We believe that Resolution 799, which speaks of the Palestinian deportees, must be fulfilled and that therefore these people must be able to return to their homes. [end recording]

[Amalia S. Sampedro] Other hopeful signs are the new tenant in the White House and the greater readiness of the Israeli Government led by Rabin.

### Talks Held With King Husayn

*JN2201192293 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Jan 93*

[Correspondent dispatch from al-'Aqabah]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana and his delegation at al-'Aqabah Palace today. The Spanish minister conveyed to his majesty a written message from His Majesty Spanish King Juan Carlos. They reviewed the special relations between the two friendly countries and the current peace talks, which seek to resolve the Middle East problem.

Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, the Jordanian ambassador in Madrid, and the Spanish ambassador in Amman attended the talks.

[Begin Solana recording in English] I am very pleased with the conversation I had with His Majesty King Husayn. He has given a very intelligent vision of what is going on in this region of the world, and what are the steps that should be taken in order to solve the problem that for so many years are having [as heard] here in this region of the world. [end recording]

### Visit Concluded, Departure Reported

*JN2301130893 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana left Amman today at the end of a four-day visit to Jordan, during which he delivered a letter to His Majesty King Husayn from King Juan Carlos of Spain.

During his visit, the Spanish foreign minister also discussed with high ranking Jordanian officials bilateral relations and ways to bolster these relations.

A number of regional and international issues were also discussed, particularly the latest developments in the Middle East and the efforts exerted to achieve peace in the region.

## President al-Hirawi Cables Congratulations to Clinton

*NC2301070793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has sent a cable to U.S. President Bill Clinton, congratulating him on becoming president and expressing the hope that a just and comprehensive peace will be achieved in the Middle East.

### Al-Hariri Message Noted

*NC2501154293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Jan 93*

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri expressed hope that the Middle East issue will be solved fairly, permanently, and satisfactorily during new U.S. President Bill Clinton's term. He noted that effective support for the process of peace and stability in Lebanon is vital for attaining this goal. This was contained in a congratulatory cable al-Hariri sent to President Clinton on starting his term as U.S. President.

## Further Reportage on Deportees' Situation

### British Stand Criticized

*NC2201205293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Jan 93*

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, official spokesman for the Palestinian deportees, has commented on Lebanon's decision to allow a British helicopter to land at the deportees' camp, saying: The helicopter's arrival does not represent a change in Lebanon's position. However, we are dissatisfied with Britain's stand on sending this helicopter. Britain should have insisted on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799, which it signed, instead of turning the issue into a peripheral one. The central issue is our return home. Britain is paying attention to peripheral issues, not the main one.

Al-Rantisi added: What is important is that Israel is retreating on its stand daily. I am confident that it will completely retreat in an attempt to save face. History, however, will record our victory. History will also record the firm and honorable stand of the Lebanese Government and people on the issue.

### Physicians Examine Deportees

*NC2301104993 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] Two British helicopters arrived from Haifa at the deportees camp at 1000, carrying officials from the International Committee of the Red Cross and some supplies. The Red Cross officials met several camp officials, including Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, Dr. 'Aziz al-Duwayk, and Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami. The two helicopters then left the camp. Because the deportees have protested the visit, Red Cross physicians currently are examining those deportees who need medical care outside the camp.

Dr. al-Rantisi, the deportees' spokesman, said the Palestinians refuse to receive the medical supplies or any other form of humanitarian assistance because their only request is the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799, which calls for their immediate return.

Red Cross official (Yves Decors) said two helicopters have transported to the camp three Red Cross representatives, three physicians, medical supplies, and more than 800 letters from the deportees' relatives, in addition to power-of-attorney forms that the deportees can fill out and send to their lawyers or relatives to lodge an appeal against their deportation.

The Red Cross official said that his team's main tasks are to examine the sick and wounded, decide which cases require hospitalization, and to bring back nine Palestinians that the Israeli authorities admitted were mistakenly deported.

### Al-Rantisi on Repatriation Plans

*NC2301144493 Paris AFP in English 1345 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Excerpt] Marj al-Zuhur, Lebanon, Jan 23 (AFP) - The Red Cross plans Saturday [23 January] to repatriate 21 of the more than 400 deported Palestinians stranded in southern Lebanon, their spokesman 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi said.

A delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Catherine Martin, said the ICRC was consulting Israeli authorities on the repatriation of eight Palestinians who have fallen sick.

The other 13 deportees from the Israeli-occupied territories are being allowed to return because they were expelled while judgment was still pending on their cases.

But two more Palestinians who the Israelis acknowledge were deported in error have opted to stay behind "in solidarity" with their comrades, according to al-Rantisi.

Israeli military radio said the Army would meet them on arrival in the northern city of Haifa to escort them back to jail until a court verdict. [passage omitted]

### Deportees Returned to Israel

*NC2301150593 Paris AFP in English 1453 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] Marj al-Zuhr, Lebanon, Jan 23 (AFP) - The Red Cross on Saturday flew 17 Palestinians back to Israel aboard British military helicopters, after visiting a group of more than 400 deportees stranded in south Lebanon.

Thirteen of the returning Palestinians were being allowed to return because Israel acknowledged they were expelled "in error," or while judgement was still pending on their cases. The other four were being flown back because they had fallen sick since the group was deported from the Israeli-occupied territories on December 17.

## Issue Will Complicate Talks

*NC2401072093 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has stated that the problem of the Palestinian deportees will complicate the upcoming bilateral peace talks and adversely affect them. He said that Lebanon will not take a separate position on the talks, noting that as Lebanon entered the peace talks according to a unanimous Arab decision, it will resume or walk out of the talks according to a unanimous Arab decision. He said that if a new round of peace talks is resumed, the deportees crisis will be on the agenda, a negative atmosphere will overshadow the talks, and the talks will achieve nothing.

## Red Cross Refused Entry

*LD2401184793 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees in Marj al-Zuhur, has rejected efforts to change the issue of the deportees from a political to a humanitarian issue. He said that the deportees refused entry to a team from the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to their camp. He made it clear that the deportees regard the ICRC's mission as humanitarian. However, we smell an Israeli conspiracy, trying to change our essential issue of returning to our homeland into a humanitarian issue.

It is worth noting that an ICRC team, comprising three delegates and a doctor, yesterday morning arrived from Cyprus on board two British helicopters with medicines and 800 letters for the deportees from their families. The Palestinian deportees refused entry to the ICRC to their camp in Marj al-Zuhur, and the two helicopters landed 200 meters from the camp.

The deportees also expressed their strong indignation at the announcement of a new ICRC mission. They stressed that the implementation of Security Council Resolution 799 should have been speeded up—the resolution demands their return and was rejected by the Zionist enemy's government. The new mission of the ICRC was approved after Britain proposed putting its helicopters, stationed at British air bases in Cyprus, at the disposal of the ICRC. The United Nations has refused to participate in that.

Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi said: This is the last time we agree to receive letters from our families. He pointed out that the ICRC would be allowed to examine 12 sick deportees, but at a distance of 200 meters from the camp.

A spokesman for the International Committee said that the ICRC is hoping to evacuated six or eight sick or injured Palestinians, but Israel has agreed to only four. He added: We will not forget the others, and our doctors have asked for them to be admitted to the hospital.

## Al-Rantisi on UNRWA Staff

*NC2501125693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Jan 93*

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi has commented on a request submitted by the UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to let 17 UNRWA employees from among the deportees return: We do not oppose the desire of any brother among the deportees to return to his relatives and home. We hope this request will be approved so that each one will decide whether to return or stay in solidarity with us in this camp.

At a news conference this morning, al-Rantisi said: In the past we heard new U.S. President Bill Clinton saying that he refuses to receive Rabin unless the deportees return. We hope Clinton will stick to his stance. As for the Israeli High Court, al-Rantisi said: This court is a mouthpiece for Israeli political leaders. We do not trust it and we do not expect anything good from it. The world must apply pressure for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799. He also said: The policy pursued by the United States is dangerous, because it has made the UN Security Council less important than the Israeli High Court.

## Prime Minister Briefs President on Damascus Talks

*NC2401203993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri returned to Beirut from Damascus today following a visit to Syria during which he met Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al- Zu'bi, and Chief of Staff General Hikmat al-Shihabi.

Following his return to Beirut, al-Hariri telephoned President Ilyas al-Hirawi and briefed him on his talks in Damascus.

## Al-Hariri Denies Differences With al-Hirawi

*NC2201214393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Jan 93*

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has denied that there are differences between him and President Ilyas al-Hirawi over administrative appointments, indicating that there is full understanding between them on everything.

### Buwayz Returns From Tehran After Damascus Stopover

*NC2301211993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz returned to Beirut a short time ago following an official visit to Tehran. During a stopover in Damascus, he met with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who said he discussed with Buwayz issues of mutual interest and coordination over the deportees, the peace process, its future prospects, the obstacles facing it, and the general regional situation. [passage omitted]

### Israeli Soldier Killed, 2 Wounded in Attack

*NC2301165293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] A Zionist soldier was killed, at least two others were wounded, and an armored personnel carrier was destroyed when a bomb went off under an enemy patrol in 'Arab Salim. After the operation, the occupation forces shelled villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah with 135-mm shells. Later, two Israeli warplanes raided the surroundings of 'Arab Salim school, firing an air-to-surface missile and dropping thermal balloons. [Paris AFP in English at 1548 GMT on 23 January in a similar report on the incident adds: "A spokesman for a pro-Iranian group calling itself the 'Faithful Resistance' claimed responsibility for the bombing in a telephone call to AFP in Beirut."]

Earlier today, the occupation artillery shelled Jabal-al-Rafi', east of Kafr Rumman in the central sector after spotting what Israeli sources described to REUTER as an armed group in the region.

### Israeli Artillery, Helicopters Shell South

*NC2401074893 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] The faithful resistance men carried out a heroic operation against an occupation patrol in the occupied border strip. They detonated an explosive device as the patrol passed near 'Arab Salim in the central sector, killing two Israeli soldiers and injuring two others. A Zionist spokesman confirmed the operation and admitted that two Israeli soldiers were killed and one injured in the explosion.

The Israeli occupation forces opened a barrage of artillery fire on several areas in the south, damaging several homes and injuring a number of people. Israeli forces shelled Jabal al-Rayhan, al-Wadi a-Akhdar, the outskirts of 'Arab Salim, Iqlim al-Tuffah, the outskirts of al-Luwayzah from their positions in al-Zaffatah, al- Mansurah farm, and al-Suwayda'. Jabal al-Rayhan, Jabal Safi, the outskirts of 'Arab Salim, al-Luwayzah, and Sujud were bombarded sporadically all night. Sporadic shelling continued until dawn today, resulting in deaths and causing extreme tension in the region. The barbaric Zionist shelling of 'Arab Salim injured Ziyad Haydar as well as Muhammad Nassar and Muhammad 'Ayyashn, two Red Cross employees in al-Nabatiyah, and damaged five homes and five cars.

Israeli helicopters fired a number of missiles at a school in 'Arab Salim. An Israeli force composed of two Merkava tanks, a troop carrier, and 10 infantrymen advanced on Kafr Tibnit and raked its outskirts with gunfire.

### Resistance Member Dies Placing Bomb

*NC2401173793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] Security sources in southern Lebanon said Sunday [24 January] that a member of the resistance was martyred last night when a bomb he was trying to plant on a road in the occupied border strip went off. The sources added that pro-Israeli agent militias defused two other roadside bombs they discovered in the occupied region. These incidents came only hours after an device exploded under an Israeli armored personnel carrier, killing two soldiers and injuring a third. That was the strongest resistance attack against the Israeli forces in southern Lebanon since October, when five Israeli soldiers were killed in a similar explosion.

### Two Gunmen Kill PSP Official in Sa'd Nayil

*NC2501073993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 25 Jan 93*

[Text] Two gunmen in a Renault 12 opened fire on Progressive Socialist Party official Milhim Su'ayfan as he was driving on the Sa'd Nayil road [in al-Biqa' valley] and killed him. Security authorities began investigating to identify the culprits.

### Israeli Tank Shells 'Fundamentalists' House

*NC2501110593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 25 Jan 93*

[Text] REUTER reports that an Israeli tank today shelled a house in Iqlim al-Tuffah in which armed fundamentalists took refuge. The news agency said an Israeli tank last night shelled a home in Majdal Zun in the Tyre region after armed men were seen moving in the region and hiding in the house.

### Resistance Detonates Device Under Israeli Patrol

*NC2501105093 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Jan 93*

[Text] Resistance men this morning detonated an explosive device under an Israeli occupation army patrol in the Jabal al-Rayhan area. According to REUTER, no injuries were recorded. AFP said the device exploded at 0910 in al-'Ayshiyah in the central sector.

Reports also noted that Israeli infantry advanced this morning from al-Ahmadiyah hill in the direction of Lusi bridge in western al-Biqa' and raked the area.

[In a related report, Paris AFP in English at 0903 GMT on 25 January adds the following: "Guerrillas carried out a bomb attack on an Israeli patrol in the 'security zone' in south Lebanon on Monday [25 January], security sources said."]

## Hizballah Commentary Challenges U.S. To Stop Aiding Israel

*NC2301120293 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0650 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Station commentary: "Israeli Arrogance"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Why should not the Zionist enemy, brimming with pride and arrogance, embark on any hostile step without second thoughts? Since its colonial inception, Israel has not encountered any deterrent by the Arabs—its natural enemies—nor by the international community and its influential members.

In Israel's record of aggression, which began with the occupation of the land and the uprooting of its inhabitants, there is no instance of action firmly taken to thwart or reverse its schemes. It is no wonder, then, that the Zionist appetite for supremacy has become increasingly insatiable. All Zionist schemes are based on the assumption that there will be nothing to deter their implementation. In the absence of such a deterrent, Israel, a usurping entity, has annexed the occupied Arab territories, ignored international resolutions, and shown complete disregard for accusations and recriminations issued against it. Israel is the only state in the world that acts as if it were above the law. It is the only player allowed to change the rules of the game in its favor.

The United States has helped and cared for the Zionist entity and defended it in various international forums. By blocking denunciations against Israel, Washington was defending its own policies and interests. Harming Israel is harming U.S. interests and denouncing Israel is denouncing U.S. policies. It is easy for the entire world to associate Zionist actions with the unequivocal principles of U.S. foreign policy, particularly in the Middle East. Had the U.S. perspective of the Middle East conflict been a just and even-handed one, there is no doubt that Zionist policies and actions would have been different.

There is ample reason to believe that Washington can muzzle Israel with restrictions whenever it wants. This is what it did during the second Gulf war, when it asked the enemy's government to stay out of the conflict, regardless of provocations, in order to maintain the cohesion of the alliance and avoid an outpouring of Arab sentiment. Washington can stop Israel's rapacious tendencies.

Of course, we will not call on Washington to intercede with Israel to stop its attacks. We never believed that Washington is a sponsor and mediator of peace in the first place. But we challenge Washington to prove, just once, its claims of being a sponsor and defender of peace and a mediator among the rival forces. We challenge Washington to prove, just once, that it is interested in harnessing Israel's aggression. We are confident, however, that Washington will not do that.

Washington is the primary and ultimate defender of Israel and its policies. What does the guaranteeing of Israel's advantage mean? Can it mean anything other than protecting Israel's aggressive schemes? If Washington does not approve of Israel's policies, why doesn't it condemn them? If Washington dislikes denunciations, why doesn't it stop aiding Israel, at least temporarily? Why doesn't it stop providing Israel with assistance until, for example, Israel reverses its decision to expel hundreds of Palestinians from their land?

It is sad that many Arabs rely on Washington to put an end to Zionist arrogance. The fact is that U.S. policy feeds and fans this arrogance. Is there any other way to end this arrogance and deflate the Zionists' ego?

### Al-Asad Heart Attack, 'Critical Condition' Claimed

*TA2301135293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] According to the French paper LIBERATION, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad suffered a heart attack four days ago and is in critical condition. The newspaper learned this from Western and Arab diplomatic sources. LIBERATION writes that two days ago the Ba'th Party leadership convened for a lengthy meeting to discuss the situation and to prevent a succession struggle among the ruling Alawite leadership. Al-Asad already suffered a heart attack nine years ago, at which time a succession struggle broke out between his brother Rif'at and 'Ali (Duba), the deputy chief of staff. Since then it has been reported that al-Asad was grooming his son Basil to succeed him.

### TV Shows al-Asad Meeting With Spanish Minister

*JN2301191693 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana at 1300 today.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Talks at the meeting dealt with bilateral relations, Euro-Arab relations, and the Middle East peace process. [Video shows al-Asad seated next to the Spanish minister, moving his arms while talking and smiling. Al-Asad shows no sign of weakness or illness. Video also shows shots of Faruq al-Shar' and pans around the room showing the other dignitaries attending.]

### Spanish Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

#### Arrival Statement Reported

*JN2301110993 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0945 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] Damascus, 23 Jan (SANA)—Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana arrived in Damascus this morning on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received him at Damascus' international airport.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Solana expressed happiness over his visit to Damascus, and said it is his first visit to this part of the world as Spain's foreign minister.

He added: My visit to Damascus reflects the desire of the Spanish Government to develop bilateral relations. I look forward to holding talks with Syrian officials on bilateral relations and issues of common interest, particularly the Middle East peace talks, the issue of Palestinian deportees, and the situation in Iraq.

Solana said: I am sure that the visit will be very fruitful in terms of bilateral relations and gaining a better understanding of global issues, especially now that Spain is a member of the UN Security Council and highly appreciates Syria's position.

Responding to a question on the peace process which began in Madrid, Solana said: The Middle East peace process began at the Madrid peace conference and we look forward to its success. We will discuss this with Syrian officials. Spain is cooperating in rendering the peace process a success.

Answering a question on the issue of Palestinian deportees, the Spanish foreign minister said that the deportation act is illegal according to international standards and that from a humanitarian point of view, this act is bad and constitutes a serious mistake.

#### Al-Shar', Spanish Counterpart Begin Talks

*JN2301145193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Excerpts] A round of talks were held this morning at the Foreign Ministry between the Syrian side, led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the Spanish side, led by Foreign Minister Javier Solana. [passage omitted]

Talks dealt with the situation in the region, the peace process, and bilateral relations and ways of developing and bolstering them in all fields. Talks also dealt with the relations between Syria and EC member states. [passage omitted]

#### Al-Asad Receives Solana 23 Jan

*JN2301154093 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] Damascus, 23 Jan (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana at 1300 today.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Talks at the meeting dealt with bilateral relations, Euro-Arab relations, and the Middle East peace process.

#### Further on Solana's Talks With al-Asad

*LD2301212093 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1900 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] The Middle East peace talks were the main subject in the talks which Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana held with the Damascus authorities during his 24-hour visit to the Syrian capital. Within the pessimism which exists in Syria, President Hafiz al-Asad expressed to Solana the possibility of the peace process proceeding [as heard].

On the other hand, the Spanish minister's visit to Syria has highlighted the desire shared by Madrid and Damascus to boost their relations. Our special correspondent Gloria del Campo reports from the Syrian capital. Good evening.

[Del Campo] Good evening. Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana had talks this afternoon in Damascus with Syrian Vice President Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister al-Zu'bi, continuing his meetings today here where this morning he was received by President Hafiz al-Asad and before that he held a meeting with his counterpart Faruq al-Shar'.

A long meeting with Hafiz al-Asad, over two hours, and the latter made clear Syria's known position in the Middle East peace process: to continue the negotiations with Israel, but to first study the problem of the Palestinian deportees again before resuming negotiations in Washington. Thus, there will be a meeting here in Damascus in February of the Arab parties involved in the peace process plus Egypt. At the same time, Syria has expressed its wish to have closer relations with Europe and also with Spain. Javier Solana:

[Begin Solana recording] He said that they would like—and they have affirmed that they would like—relations between Spain and Syria to improve and to improve in all directions. I stress, from the economic point of view, in recent months, there has been some progress as regards trade, as regards investment, between Spain and Syria, but the two sides, Spain and Syria, would like to have closer relations from the trading and economic point of view, and also—why not?—from the cultural point of view. The wish of the minister of foreign affairs is that, from the political point of view, he would like to have exchanges of views with his Spanish counterpart with a certain regularity—which he has not set or suggested yet. [end recording]

## Further Report

*LD2301233493 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria believes that it is still possible for the Middle East peace process to carry on even though there are two unresolved questions on its path: the fate of the 400 Palestinians deported by Israel to Lebanon over a month ago, and the support which the new U.S. Democratic administration is ready to give to the peace talks. That is what Hafiz al-Asad told Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana, who paid a 24-hour visit to Damascus.

RNE special correspondent Gloria del Campo reports from the Syrian capital. Good evening.

[Del Campo] Good evening. [passage omitted]

The Spanish foreign minister summed up the Syrian position on the peace process this way:

[Begin Solana recording] They are pessimistic about the peace process, but they do not want to say that the peace process has run aground or been derailed; rather, they believe that there are possibilities of continuing to move forward, but at this moment they have great pessimism, because they believe that Israel has not changed its postions as regards the bilaterals with Syria. They maintain their idea of not taking part in multilateral relations [as heard], and they have at present—at least the president—a certain confidence that the Clinton administration will maintain and continue the process started with the same philosophy as the one started by Baker. They believe that otherwise, if the process were not on that basis, the process would fail, and they believe that a failure of the peace process would not be positive for the interests of the United States either. [end recording] [passage omitted]

## Solana Comments on Peace Process

*LD2301221493 Madrid TVE Internacional Television in Spanish 2000 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] The problem of the Palestinian deportees will not be an obstacle for the Middle East peace negotiations. This was repeated today in Damascus by the Syrian Government on the occasion of the visit by Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana, who is on a tour of Jordan, Syria, and Egypt to relaunch the Arab-Israeli peace process which was started at the Madrid conference.

[Amalia Sampedro, special correspondent in Damascus] The Syrian Government wants Europe to get more deeply and permanently involved in the peace process in this region. Here in Damascus, at the heart of the conflict, there is the feeling that European leaders are forgetting the Middle East. Spain was also asked to increase its relations with a country with which they have hitherto been very cool.

But the bulk of Javier Solana's two and one-half hours of talks with Hafiz al-Asad were devoted to the peace process: a detailed account to expound the point of view of a country which up to the preliminaries of the Madrid conference had refused to negotiate.

[Solana] And there are two interpretations: the Israeli interpretation which means peace in exchange for territories, and the Syrian interpretation which means peace in exchange for all the territories. Here there is a difference of nuance between Israel and Syria, a difference of nuance which becomes a great obstacle for progress in the negotiations.

[Sampedro] In the talks with Prime Minister al-Zu'bi and above all with one of the most important figures in this regime, Vice President Khaddam, it was clear that for Syria the problem of the Palestinian deportees ought not to be an obstacle to negotiation. With his counterpart Farouk al-Shara' possibilities of greater bilateral cooperation were sought via a framework agreement before the summer. Syria is interested in receiving from Spain cooperation in tourism, agriculture, the environment, and cultural policy. Here it is hoped that Spain as a friendly country will make Europe understand how important looking southward is in this process.

### Vice President Confers With Solana

*JN2301180493 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1710 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] Damascus, 23 Jan (SANA)—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana and his delegation at 1700 today.

The meeting was attended by the Spanish ambassador in Damascus.

Talks at the meeting dealt with the current international situation, the situation in the region, and bilateral relations.

### Al-Zu'bi Holds Talks With Solana

*JN2301181593 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] Damascus, 23 Jan (SANA)—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana and his delegation at 1830 today.

The meeting was attended by the Spanish ambassador in Damascus.

Talks at this meeting dealt with the bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation. In this meeting, the desire of the two countries to develop these relations and bolster their prospects in a manner that realizes joint interests was emphasized.

### Spanish Delegation Leaves Damascus

*JN2401110593 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1007 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] Damascus, 24 Jan (SANA)—Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana and the accompanying delegation left Damascus today after a two-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Acting Assistant Foreign Minister Raslan 'Allush, a number of Foreign Ministry officials, the Spanish ambassador in Damascus, and the Spanish Embassy staff.

### Israeli Violations of Jordan, Gulf Airspace Noted

*JN2401094293 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] Beirut, 24 Jan (SANA)—Israeli aircraft have been violating Jordanian and Arabian Peninsula airspace recently. Meanwhile, the involved governments remained silent regarding this matter. AL- KIFAH AL-'ARABI magazine said in its latest issue that the diplomatic reports which revealed this noted that an ambiguous Israeli-American understanding has been reached on certain strategic measures during the current stage.

## Afghanistan

### President Sends Congratulatory Telegram to Clinton

*LD2301165293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, sent the following congratulatory telegram to Washington addressed to Mr. Bill Clinton on the occasion of his taking office as the U.S. President.

Mr. William Jefferson, Bill, Clinton, President of the United States:

I have the pleasure to congratulate you sincerely on behalf of the people of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and myself on the occasion of taking the office of the U.S. Presidency. We are fully confident that the friendly relations between the people and Governments of Afghanistan and the United States are further being broadened during the term of your leadership for the interests of the people of the two countries and for the interests of peace and security in the world. We are hoping that the United States, under your leadership, continues its necessary assistance as before for the reconstruction of our war-torn country and to extend assistance to the people of Afghanistan under the present difficult conditions.

Esteemed Foreign Minister Seyyed Soleyman Gilani also sent a congratulatory telegram to Washington addressed to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

### Rabbani Meets Pakistani, Iranian Ambassadors

*LD2401152193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] At Golkhana State Presidential Palace this morning, esteemed Professor Burhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, received Amir Osman, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and held talks with him.

At this meeting, the friendly relations between the two countries and a number of other topics of mutual interest were discussed.

Esteemed Professor Rabbani received Mohammad Mahyoddin-Najafi, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at Golkhana Palace this afternoon. According to a BAKHTAR report, in the course of this meeting, talks were held on the expansion of the friendly relations between the two countries and on several other topics of mutual interest.

### Sayyaf Condemns Fighting Against Government

*LD2301174493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] Esteemed Professor Abdorrub Rasul Sayyaf [leader of the Ettehad-e Eslami Party] regards the continuation of confrontation and fighting against the Islamic government as an impermissible and illegitimate act from the shariah and Islamic point of view and he called on all jihadi groups and formations to solve all the internal differences and disputes by understanding and talks.

A correspondent for the BAKHTAR news agency reports that Professor Sayyaf, who took part in a news conference today attended by domestic and foreign correspondents, added:

The country's courageous Mojahedin struggled for 14 years during the period of jihad for the consolidation of the Islamic state and succeeded in achieving this major objective in accepting every self-sacrifice and devolution. And now, an Islamic state has been set up in our country for the enforcement of God's justice and there is no longer any pretext for the continuation of fighting and the shedding of blood.

Regarding the current issues and the firing of rockets by Golboddin's agitating forces, he said: Why is Golboddin fighting in the past? His own Islamic party has now collaborated with the very forces he condemns. Because of this, Hezb-e Eslami must rationally rethink the selection of its leadership.

The most important task before the Mojahedin and their leaders under the present circumstances is to try for the consolidation of the Islamic state, which has gained shariah and legal legitimacy after the successful convocation of the Ahl-e Hal Wa Aqd Shura [constituent council].

In reply to a question, Professor Sayyaf said: The Mojahedin of Ettehad-e Eslami are now operating within the framework of the Ministry of Defense for defending the defenseless people of Kabul city and for preventing the firing of rockets by Golboddin's forces; and they, with pride and honor, are discharging their religious and Islamic duties.

### Further on Government-Hezb-e Eslami Fighting in Kabul

#### Technical College Captured

*LD2201131393 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 22 Jan 93*

[Text] The mojahedin forces who are advancing toward Kabul city have captured the headquarters of the Technicum.

A responsible source of the Supreme Command of the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] forces said to a Radio Message of Freedom correspondent that the mojahedin forces are successfully advancing from the direction of Chehelsotun and that today, at around 0800 hours, they captured the headquarters of the Technicum. Fighting is continuing around the Gozergah and Jangalak factory. The report adds that the brave Mojahedin are continuing their advances and that all military posts and headquarters of the coalition administration from Chehelsolun to Qala-e Fat'hollah Khan, including the Technicum, have been captured by the Mojahedin.

According to another report, this morning the courageous mojahedin attacked with heavy weapons a hill where a television antenna has been erected. The artillery forces of the coalition government are stationed there.

The reports from the eastern regions of Kabul say [words indistinct] that the military college, which is an important base of the coalition administration, is under heavy weapon attack from the Shena hill direction by the courageous Mojahedin of the Hezb-e Eslami.

### Government Forces Admit Defeat

*LD2201132793 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 22 Jan 93*

[Text] [Words indistinct] a commander of the coalition administration's Ministry of Defense forces who is stationed in the military college [in the east of the city of Kabul] has admitted their defeat in the fighting that took place in Bagrami and Bodkhak regions. This commander, whose name is Abdol Ghafar, in an interview with a BBC radio correspondent admitted that his forces have retreated from Shena hill. The coalition forces have been claiming that this hill, together with a number of other centers, has been captured from the mojahedin of the Hezb-e Eslami. It should be mentioned that this shameful defeat of the coalition administration has been confirmed by all press agencies and mass media.

### Defense Ministry Source Cited

*LD2301121893 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 0230 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] The rocket positions of the agitators belonging to Golboddin's forces yesterday came under air and artillery attack by the military forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

A responsible source in the Ministry of Defense of the Islamic State of Afghanistan told the BAKHTAR military correspondent:

The positions of the agitating forces on the southern side of Kabul, from where most of rockets directed at Kabul were fired yesterday and today, were targeted by the forces of the Islamic State, and some of the enemy's long-range weapons were destroyed. During yesterday's operation by the Armed Forces of the Ministry of Defense, two tanks in Khak-e Jabar and four tanks in Bagrami were taken as booty.

The same Defense Ministry source said that the agitating forces again tried yesterday to launch an attack from the southern side of Kabul; however, the mojahedin of the Islamic State put up a strong resistance and foiled their aggression. As a result the agitating forces' positions along the southern side of Kabul were seized. During this operation, in which heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy, [word indistinct] mojahedin of the Islamic State were (?injured). The source added that the agitating forces again fired rockets on the city yesterday, as a result of which a number of our innocent compatriots were martyred and some others were injured.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that, during the mopping-up operation of the past few days, many of the agitating forces were arrested and a large number of their weapons were seized.

Commanders and jihadi forces from all regions of the country have contacted and sent messages to the responsible officials of the Islamic Army, expressing their support for the [word indistinct] Islamic Army.

### 'Heavy Fighting' Rages

*LD2301120293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] The situation in the Afghan capital Kabul is still tense. Our correspondent reports from Afghanistan that clashes are still continuing southwest and southeast of Kabul between Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami and government forces.

In an exchange of fire between the two warring sides this morning, Hezb-e Eslami positions in the abovementioned regions were bombarded by Afghan Government Air Force fighters. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami also launched a missile attack on the government air base in the suburbs of Kabul.

Our correspondent reports that no end is in sight for the clashes. There have been a few mediatory efforts which have achieved no results. According to an Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman, the political discussions between the government and Hekmatyar have come to nothing and it seems that the only way left is military confrontation.

The latest reports from Afghanistan, citing Hezb-e Eslami sources, indicate that the forces of this party have overrun the positions of government forces and advanced in the southwestern areas of Kabul. According to our correspondent, these sources said: Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami forces have captured Pol-e Charkhi prison and the Bodkhak and Tapa-e Tajbeg regions from government forces. An Afghan Defense Ministry source had previously denied reports on the advance of Hezb-e Eslami forces.

Other reports from Hezb-e Eslami sources state: Yesterday, the forces of this party overran government trenches in Tapa-e Chehelsotun in southwestern Kabul and occupied the position.

Heavy fighting is currently raging in the Plo-e Gusaleh and Military Academy regions. Government officials have not yet confirmed these reports. According to other reports, around 500 persons wounded in the recent battles are being cared for in Kabul hospitals, including the 400-bed Red Cross Hospital and the Jomhuriyat Hospital.

### Casualties in Missile Attack

*LD2301150793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] The Golboddin forces again fired rockets today on innocent peoples' homes, government offices, and crowded areas in Kabul.

A responsible security source has told BAKHTAR's military section that the Golboddin forces fired around 68 rockets at most wards of the city's residential areas today, as a result of which six innocent citizens were martyred and another 27 people were injured. The injured were quickly transferred to hospitals, where they are receiving intensive treatment and care. The missiles caused heavy material damage to several houses, public welfare buildings, and government institutions. The source added that these missiles, which were mostly fired from the southern direction, landed in central areas of the city [words indistinct].

In order to safeguard the security of Kabul's citizens, Ministry of Defense forces are continuing their mopping-up operations.

### Over 600 Casualties in Fighting

*LD2401125393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] Fighting between the forces of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami and the government continue in the capital of Afghanistan. Our Kabul correspondent reports that the city came under long-range weapons fire last evening. This attack was of an intensity unprecedented during the six days of the current bout of fighting.

According to the report, Kabul came under continuous fire this morning as well. Several areas of the city are still under attack from long-range weapons, and exchanges of fire between the warring sides, aimed at each other's positions in the south, west, and east of the city, still continue.

Although the situation in the capital is still tense, Kabul residents left their shelters today, for the first time in several days, in order to obtain supplies. Our correspondent Gudarzi, who has visited the Makroyan district himself—where mostly public servants live—reports that the residents there are living under most difficult conditions. The winter cold, the difficulty of finding daily provisions, and the problem of personal security are causing them great hardship. Residents in Chehelsotun, Dar ol-Aman, and other districts in south Kabul have also left their homes because of continuing clashes.

The casualty figure for the six days of fighting in Kabul exceeds the 600 mark. Most of the injured are civilians.

According to our correspondent's report, Kabul's television transmitters, damaged in the past few days as a result of firing by Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami forces, are still not functioning. Kabul radio transmissions also have been disrupted because of rocket hits. There is only one short-wave transmitter putting out limited programs.

### Heights Above Kabul Seized

*BK2401123493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1227 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[By Terence White]

[Excerpts] Kabul, Jan 24 (AFP)—Afghan rebel mojahedin captured several strategic mountain-top positions in the south of Kabul on the sixth day of fierce fighting with Defence Ministry troops, frontline fighters said Sunday.

They said Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami rebel guerrillas had taken some peak positions on Chelsitoon mountain overnight Saturday and moved heavy artillery there.

Although outflanked by Hezb combatants, the government fighters said they were well dug in and had been resupplied with an abundance of anti-tank rockets and ammunition.

"Actually we are quite safe in our bunkers and have not suffered any casualties today, but the people who are suffering the most are the poor civilians forced to flee their homes," said one of the mojahedin crouched around a wood-burning stove, as a rocket exploded outside the ruins of a shop they sheltered in.

Apart from the crashing of incoming rockets and the patter of falling shrapnel striking the walls, there was a deathly silence in Chelsitoon, as most of the local inhabitants have fled on foot.

The Red Cross reported an average of more than 120 casualties per day admitted to Kabul's five civilian and military hospitals, bringing the six-day total to an estimated 720.

About 100 metres (yards) to the rear of the frontline, a Russian T-55 battle-tank manned by armoured brigade troops shelled the Chelsitoon heights in order to inhibit the forward advance of Hezb foot soldiers. [passage omitted]

From Chelsitoon the sounds of combat could also be heard a little to the west, near the ruins of the former Defence Ministry building in Darulaman District.

Frontline troops said the government was battling the Shi'ite Hazara Hezb-e Wahadat faction, but a Defence Ministry official denied this, saying the fighting was "only a simple clash between local commanders."

Ayatollah Abdul Ali Mazari, leader of the Iranian-supported Wahadat, has repeatedly declared his alliance with Hezb, but has not yet overtly committed his men to battle with the government.

Locals living in the vicinity of a government-controlled central city peak adjacent to a Wahadat stronghold reported an intense artillery bombardment against the government positions in the early hours of Sunday morning, but again, the Defence Ministry official denied a Wahadat attack, saying only "local clashes" had taken place.

"Wahadat have given the government a guarantee not to support Hezb-e Eslami, and up to now they are honouring this committment," the Defence Ministry official said.

However it was widely rumoured among army personnel that Wahadat was secretly supporting Hezb, and had aided the infiltration of a large number of Hezb guerrillas into parts of southwestern Kabul, in particular around the embassy of the former Soviet Union.

Around mid-day Sunday, a government army divisional headquarters about two kilometres (one mile) to the north of Chelsitoon came under rocket fire from very close range, from across the Kabul River in a locality under Wahadat control.

"Wahadat has started an attack against us," claimed security guards from the cover of their foxholes.

Later Sunday a kind of calm had descended on Kabul. The odd artillery explosion could be heard, but since the morning few incoming rockets had landed in the capital.

Yet for war-weary Kabul residents and fighters alike, there is no sign yet of a truce. "Nobody has shown any readiness to mediate a ceasefire," a government official said.

### Iranian Embassy Hit

*LD2501113493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Jan 93*

[Text] Amid the continuous exchange of heavy artillery between the government forces under the command of Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and the forces of Golboddin Hekmatyar's Islamic Party, this morning a rocket hit the building of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy in Kabul. According to the Voice and Vision correspondent in Kabul, the rocket hit the administrative section of the Iranian Embassy, inflicting heavy damage, but there were no casualties. As a result of the incident, the windows of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy in Kabul were shattered.

In his report, the Voice and Vision correspondent has said that the position from which the rocket was fired is still unknown. Since the start of the new wave of clashes between the rival forces in Kabul last Tuesday, this is the second rocket that has landed on the premises of the Islamic Republic of Iran's embassy in Kabul. Hitherto, a number of rockets have hit the buildings of the Turkish and German Embassies, as well as the UN offices in Kabul.

## Bangladesh

### Opposition Leader Survives Assassination Attempt

*BK2501035293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 25 Jan 93*

[Text] In Bangladesh, the opposition leader, Sheikh Hasina, survived an attempt on her life yesterday when a group of gunmen opened fire on her rally in Chittagong. The gunfire continued for an hour. At least 50 persons sustained injuries. The condition of many of them is stated to be serious. Later, talking to newsmen Sheikh Hasina blamed the fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami and ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party for the attack.

Meanwhile, the Awami League has called for a countrywide 12-hour strike tomorrow to protest against the attack. A similar protest strike has been called for today in Chittagong.

### Others Injured at Rally

*BK2401153193 Hong Kong AFP in English 1322 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, Jan 24 (AFP)—Gunfire and crude bombs left about 50 people injured Sunday at a rally organized by Bangladesh's major opposition group, the Awami League, police and witnesses said.

Some 50,000 people attending the rally ran for cover when unidentified gunmen opened fire after Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed, in a speech, accused the government of creating a reign of terror.

"The politics of terrorism has taken over politics of development," Wajed had charged.

Prior to Wajed's arrival, crude bombs exploded at the rally, giving several people shrapnel wounds.

Police, who rushed Wajed to a nearby headquarters for her safety, said rival factions of the Awami League's student wing, the Bangladesh Chatra League, were responsible.

The factions had reportedly fought over a place on the podium before and after Wajed's speech, the police said.

The rally had been called to commemorate the 1988 deaths of 24 Awami League activists in a police shooting during the rule of Bangladesh president Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

Elsewhere, tension was high at Mymensingh Agricultural Univeristy in northern Bangladesh after a student was killed and about 20 people injured in the first campus political clash of 1993, press reports and residents said.

Rival members of Jatiyatabadi Chatra Dal, the student wing of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party, fought with bombs and automatic weapons Saturday over a vacant student union position, the reports said.

More than 25 students activists died in political violence in Bangladesh last year.

### Burmese Refugee Repatriation Halted Indefinitely

*BK2301091093 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 17 Jan 93 p 12*

[Report by Aminul Haq Chowdhury]

[Text] Repatriation of Rohingya refugees to their homeland has been stopped for an indefinite period starting yesterday. A representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees was not present last Friday when a batch of 2,724 Rohingya refugees was returning home. It is not known when the repatriation process will start again. But differences relating to repatriation are likely to be resolved at the official-level meeting between the Government of Bangladesh and the United Nations representative to be held this week.

Local administration officials have alleged that people belonging to several foreign organizations are indulging in activities detrimental to the interests of the refugees since the repatriation process began on 22 September last year. On the basis of these allegations, an official of the UN High Commission based in Cox's Bazar was withdrawn. It has been learned from different sources that armed Rohingya terrorists under the patronage of these voluntary organizations are intimidating refugees willing to go back to their homeland. Clashes between pro-repatriation and anti-repatriation groups during the past seven to eight months have led to the killing of 17 refugees. In these clashes five to six magistrates and about 50 security personnel were also injured.

As of 15 January, only 17,424 refugees out of a total of about 250,000 refugees have returned voluntarily. Meanwhile, three parliamentarians from Cox's Bazar District—Shahjahan Chowdhury, Mushtaq Ahmed Chowdhury, and Ishaq Miah—have called on the authorities concerned to expedite the repatriation process with a view to resolving the law and order problem, and economic crisis prevailing in the area.

### Uniform Policy on Disarmament Advocated

*BK2501115393 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 13 Jan 93 p 2*

[Editorial: "Checking Proliferation of Missiles"]

[Text] More good news related to arms reduction has been heard after the signing of the widely acclaimed START II treaty by outgoing U.S. President Bush and Russian President Yeltsin. A total of 21 countries including the United States have agreed to further strengthen the policy to check the proliferation of intercontinental missiles. It may be mentioned that such missiles are capable of carrying weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear bombs, to targets far away. Hence, the nonproliferation of intercontinental missiles assumes great significance for those who are championing the cause of disarmament. These missiles can cause large-scale destruction in the world not only by bearing nuclear bombs but also by carrying chemical and biological weapons. In this connection, U.S. State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher has said that the accord reached by 22 countries will further strengthen the existing regulations on intercontinental missiles. It may be recalled that in 1987, a handful of countries reached an informal agreement on the control of intercontinental missiles. This accord is known as the Missile Technology Control Ragime—MTCR. In accordance with the provisions of this accord, signatory countries pledged not to transfer material or technology in relation to this missile to any country that does not possess it. The accord was applicable to missiles having a range of 186 miles and capable of launching destructive payloads of over 500 kilograms. According to Boucher, the present accord restricts the transfer of technology for intercontinental missiles of any range. Therefore, from now onward the motive of importers will be the main consideration in the export of missiles or their technology. But nothing has been said about the yardstick that would be applied for judging the motive of importers.

It may be mentioned that though the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Japan, and other countries have reached an agreement in this regard, Russia and China however refrained from signing this accord. In addition, several other countries engaged in developing missiles have also disagreed with this arrangement. Russia, which is not an MTCR signatory, is supplying superior quality fuel to India for the launching of rockets despite U.S. objections. Though New Delhi has pledged that this fuel will be used for a space research program, many have expressed doubts in this regard. This suspicion has been further accentuated by the tests India is conducting with its long-range missile, Agni. Pakistan has followed India by testing its short-range missile, Hatem. Under the pretext of conducting weather research, Pakistan launched a satellite named Badar-1 in 1990. Preparations are going on to launch Badar-2 early next year. Several other countries, including Israel which is not an MTCR signatory, are also engaged in similar activities either openly or secretly.

Observers believe that the accord signed recently by the 22 countries still remains inadequate as Russia and China have yet to sign as well. Efforts made by different countries to acquire missile technology under various pretexts are well-known. It is expected that all countries, big or small, will follow the same policy regarding missiles and nuclear weapons.

## India

### British Prime Minister Major Arrives for Visit

*BK2401012893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] The British prime minister, Mr. John Major, arrived in New Delhi last night on a six-day visit. He was received at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, and the British high commissioner, Sir Nicholas Fenn, and senior officials of the External Affairs Ministry. Mr. Major, who will be on a private visit today, begins his official program from tomorrow when he will be accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House]. He will call on President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma and Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao on the same day. Mr. Major will be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebration. He is the first British prime minister to receive such an invitation. During his stay the British premier will have wide ranging discussions with Mr. Narasimha Rao and other ministers including ministers of defense, home, and finance. Besides, bilateral economic relations, Kashmir issue and defense matters will also be discussed.

Mr. Major is accompanied by an 18 member delegation comprising leading businessmen and industrialists. He is expected to announce some aid program besides signing with India a new double taxation avoidance agreement.

### Accorded Ceremonial Welcome

*BK2501051693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 25 Jan 93*

[Text] The British prime minister, Mr. John Major, was given a ceremonial welcome at the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] this morning. He was presented an interservices guard of honor. The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, several other ministers and senior officials were present.

Speaking to newsmen, Mr. Major said he will have discussions with the prime minister on a whole range of matters including those relating to trade and bilateral issues. He said the present Indo-British relations are as good as they have been at any time since independence. Mr. Narasimha Rao also expressed confidence that the talks with Mr. Major will be very useful. He said though the British premier's visit is a very short one, the two sides will have a lot of consultation to understand each others point of view. He said some agreements will also be signed. Replying to a question, Mr. Major said he is entirely content with the security arrangements for him.

### Interviewed on Ties, Kashmir

*BK2401195893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1630 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Interview with UK Prime Minister John Major by Chandan Mitra, associate editor of THE HINDUSTAN TIMES; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mitra] It is a matter of immense pride and a great deal of pleasure to have with us today the Right Honorable Mr. John Major, prime minister of the United Kingdom. In less than two years that he has been Britain's prime minister, Mr. Major has already attained the stature of an international statesman and an astute politician. His visit to India, the first by a British prime minister since his redoubtable predecessor, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, came here in 1985, can only help to renew and deepen the centuries- old relationship based on mutual admiration that exists between our two countries.

Mr. Major, we all know that you are an avid cricket enthusiast. On current performance who do you think is poised to win the ongoing series between India and England?

[Major] [laughs] That's a question to which I can't give you an answer at all. Thus far it seems very even. The batsmen on both sides perhaps will break into rather better form than we've seen from them yet. But I think it's always very difficult to win in India. But that is a formidable Indian team. People would be unwise to underestimate them. I think it'll be a tough series.

[Mitra] By the way you follow cricket, I'm sure you'll be following the series with some interest.

[Major] I shall be following it with great interest. Alas, not watching it live, but following it with interest.

[Mitra] Well, apart from cricket, India and Britain have shared a lot in common. And that's probably the reason why the ties between the two countries have often been described as a special relationship. But after the European Union becomes a reality, do you think that any remaining feature of this special relationship will be evident at all? Or do you think Indo-British ties will just become commonplace ties between just two countries.

[Major] No, I don't see how they can. And I certainly don't think whatever may happen within the European Community will affect them in the slightest. The relationship that exists between the United Kingdom and India is based on years of history, years of common interests. They are both leading members of the Commonwealth. We have a common view on many international problems. I see that as a quite separate matter from our relationship with the European Community, and an enduring matter. I would have suggested, and I dare say most Indian politicians would agree with me, that the present relationship between my country and India is as good today as at any time for very many years past, and I see no reason why it can't continue to stay that way.

[Mitra] Well, since we're both the subjects of the Commonwealth, I think this is a very significant point. Now that apartheid in South Africa is being dismantled, do you see any political role whatsoever for the Commonwealth? And, in fact, I would like to ask you that whether the Commonwealth has any future at all?

[Major] Surely has. I don't have a shred of doubt about the future of the Commonwealth. You can't break up the source of links that have been built up between the Commonwealth countries over recent years. You can't always point to any tangible form in the same way that one may have a direct trading relationship with a near neighbor. But they're links of language, they're links of history, they're links of instinct, and they're links of common interest. So I don't have any reservations about the future of the Commonwealth. I have deliberately sought to maneuver Britain's position back into the center of the Commonwealth. I think that's where she belongs, and I wish to see the Commonwealth strengthened. I very much suspect in the years to come other countries will wish to join the Commonwealth, and I see no one wishing to leave it. And I think that perhaps is the clearest demonstration of its continuing strength.

[Mitra] But, would you elaborate on what you mean by bringing Britain back to the center of the Commonwealth?

[Major] There was a time, I think, over some years, some periods since the war when Britain seemed not to have an increasingly close relationship with some Commonwealth members. I believe that is now changing. We spoke a moment ago about the improving relationship with India. That is an illustration of it. I think many people would say that that applies to some African countries. There were some turbulent periods in the 1960's. The relationship of trade and instinct has now come much closer again.

[Mitra] In your recent interview to THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in London you have called for a dialogue between India and Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir issue. How do you think that this kind of a dialogue could be initiated?

[Major] Let me say several things about that. The first thing I must say about the Kashmir issue is that it's a matter of concern to all India's friends and all Pakistan's friends. We would all like to see the matter come to a conclusion. But the first thing that we are immensely conscious of is that it can only be solved between India and Pakistan. Your friends may wish you well. But a conclusion to this is a matter that will eventually be determined between the governments of the two countries concerned. We will help if we're asked to help. But it is essentially a matter for the two main countries.

I think there are several things that clearly are going to be important. One of them, over time, is to develop a satisfactory political dialogue. I think that would clearly be very important. Indeed, it's difficult to see how a conclusion can be reached without that. And then, of course, there will need to be great care to make sure there isn't external assistance to militancy. I think that's a matter that would impel the dangers of a continuing political progress. [sentence as heard] So, I think those are the three steps, but first there has to be the will to talk between the two governments. That will has been there in the past. I hope it will continue to be there. It's the only way we come to a lasting solution.

[Mitra] Would I be right in concluding that you rule out the possibility of any third party, a third country, or an international body playing a role in this matter?

[Major] Well, it depends on what you mean by role. If you mean are we going to act as coordinators, I think that would be very difficult and I don't think it would be likely to be very productive. That's certainly not what I had in mind. I think the friends of both countries would wish to encourage both countries to enter into dialogue. But I don't think they can carry out the dialogue for them.

[Mitra] Related to this, there is the problem that has dogged the subcontinent for quite some time now—the problem of terrorism. Not that talking about it the problem goes away. Now, while the British Government has cracked down—and I think cracked down very heavily on Indian secessionist groups operating from Britain—do you think much further denunciation is necessary of terrorist groups seeking the breakup of multiethnic but democratic societies like India. And my specific questions in context is do you see that the backers of secessionist violence also need to be unequivocally condemned?

[Major] Well, I don't want to get involved in a particular problem of any particular movement. But I'm happy to deal with the question of terrorism generally. One of the factors of life in the last 20 or 30 years has been the spread of a large number of terrorist groups. Now the first point I think that has to be made about those terrorist groups is that many of them operate internationally. They often fund themselves internationally and in very undesirable ways. It is necessary for the international community as a whole to work together as far as we can against the general concept of terrorism. Terrorism bypasses the law; it doesn't understand the law; it seeks to evade the law. And there is a necessity for the law-abiding nations of the world to work together against terrorism, and upon that matter the British Government is very firm.

[Mitra] Do you think there is something more that needs to be done beyond extradition treaty and beyond the kind of steps that have already been taken? Would you be thinking or would you be discussing some of these issues of terrorist groups operating from Britain and what more could be done to ensure that British soil is not used for this purpose?

[Major] I think, the broad structure of law is now in place in order to deal with terrorism. It's the implementation of the law that's now necessary to make sure that it's satisfactorily dealt with. We devote a great deal of time and effort to dealing with terrorism in all its aspects. Insofar as the United Kingdom is concerned, we'll certainly continue to do that. I've discussed that with Prime Minister Rao in the past. I discussed it with other leaders. I am sure we'll touch on it again.

[Mitra] Coming to something that has been bothering a lot of people in this country—and I thought we could take this opportunity to ask your views on this—do you think that the recent incidents of violence in India have tarnished its image in the West and, in your opinion, will this affect the flow of western capital into India?

[Major] Well, upon the lack of (?funds), I think I can be much clearer. I, for example, have brought with me from the United Kingdom a large number of very senior businessmen indeed. We see a real economic future for India—prospects in India and prospects for India. And they are here to discuss large investment projects, to discuss the proposition of greater trade flows. They see a great future for India, as I do. And I think people will understand the need to maintain secular democracy in India and the efforts the government is taking to sustain that. They will see that, they will appreciate that, and the clearest expression of the fact that they appreciate that is that these businessmen are looking to the future and see a part of their investment future here in India.

[Mitra] In other words, you can see that Britian and your government is confident about India's future, and you don't think heaven haven't fallen and you still have faith in ...

[Major, interrupting] We are the oldest democracy in the world. India is the biggest democracy in the world. I think that's a very substantial shared link.

[Mitra] Will you be discussing the subject of India's economic liberalization with Prime Minister Rao during your talks, and what are the steps you would like to see India take further on its way to economic liberalization so that it helps foreign investment come in greater volume into India?

[Major] In the last 10 years, there has been a remarkable sea change right the way around the world in terms of the liberalization of trade. The countries that barred external investment now welcome it. Countries that demanded large domestic shareholdings and any externally-owned enterprises have now moved away from that. It's a world that has embarked upon much freer trade, much freer investment, and much freer capital flows. I believe the Indian Government are well aware of that. And they know that they, like every other country in the world, including mine, are competing for a limited amount of investment in countries around the world. That investment will go where it seems most fruitful. And so liberalization is very much in the medium and long-term interests of every country.

And if I may tie that to a different point, we at the moment [are] liberalizing world trade through the renewal of the GAAT agreement. The GATT agreement, which we are very close to finalizing now, will simply, by removing trade barriers, increase the flow of world trade by something like 200 million [figure as heard] United States dollars every year. That is a remarkable difference. A great deal of that will go to the nonindustrialized world, dealing with the quality of life, the standard of living of many millions of people who at present don't enjoy a high standard of living. That is one of the advantages of trade liberalization. I am confident the Indian Government know that very well.

[Mitra] I think that you are an optimist, not only for India but the world as a whole.

[Major] I am an optimist. If we can develop free trade what would be a dramatic step backwards—and I mean a step backwards in terms of people's living standards—would be a people moved to closed markets and not open markets. We live in a much smaller world, it's a trite thing to say, but we live in a much smaller world now. People can move their investments or their trade or their interests from one country to another with speed that could never have been matched some years before. Therefore, unless there is an open market, the trade will go with there isn't any.

[Mitra] In conclusion, prime minister, I have a somewhat, but not [passage indistinct]. With the victory of Bill Clinton in the United States, the age of rightwing conservatism represented by Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Mr. Ronald Reagan, and Mr. Bush seems to have come to a close. So for you, how does it feel to be a Conservative prime minister when Liberal wing seems to be growing prosperous all over again?

[Major] We have hardly come to a close, I think. There are many people just a few months ago who predicted that the British Conservatives wouldn't win a fourth successive general election victory. We did, and with a very substantial majority in votes—one of the largest victories in votes that any government has ever won in the United Kingdom. So, I am perfectly confident. And if you look across the United States, it is the principles of the free market that have won in the United States—whether it was President Bush or President Clinton.

[Mitra] Do you think that [words indistinct] are interested in what the Conservative Party stands for and needs to be changed and have you been thinking of how to sort of bring it in tune with Europe, to bring it in tune with currents that have been sweeping the world over the last five or six years?

[Major] The British Conservative Party is a very unique beast. It's evolved with the grain of people's instincts for 200 years or more, has done and is doing and I have no doubt that it will continue to do so.

[Mitra] Mr. Major, thank you very much indeed and on behalf of All India Radio, we wish you a very very happy and pleasant stay in India.

[Major] Thank you. I am looking forward to it. Thank you.

[Mitra] Thank you.

### Foreign Minister Singh Comments

*BK2401065893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0637 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 24 (AFP)—India has rejected a possible British role in resolving the Kashmir dispute, saying it needed to be settled directly between India and Pakistan, the new foreign minister was Sunday quoted as saying.

"Mediation between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir issue is not the answer and a solution lies in bilateral negotiations," Dinesh Singh told the UNITED NEWS OF INDIA (UNI) in comments published by newspapers here.

Mediation, he added, would not satisfy anyone.

Dinesh Singh's statement came in response to comments by British Prime Minister John Major, who arrived here Saturday night on a five-day visit, that India and Pakistan should discuss their simmering Kashmir row.

Major told THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in an interview published Saturday that he would suggest to Indian counterpart P.V. Narasimha Rao the opening of a dialogue between India and Pakistan over Kashmir.

"Our best action on behalf of all the people concerned about Kashmir is to try and encourage the sides to come together and deal with the long-standing and deeply felt problems that exist there," Major was quoted as saying.

Dinesh Singh, appointed the external affairs minister a week ago, did not refer to Major by name, but also took up points raid by the British prime minister on the nuclear issue, reiterating New Delhi's known objections to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation (NPT) treaty.

"We do not wish to foreclose our nuclear option by signing the NPT when our neighbours are increasing their nuclear capabilities," THE TRIBUNE and other newspapers quoted him as saying.

India did not support nuclear disarmament, but "this should not put us at a disadvantage," the minister added.

Major had told THE HINDUSTAN TIMES that he wished India, which calls the NPT discriminatory between nuclear haves and have-nots, Pakistan and China to take steps to reduce nuclear weapons believed to be in their possession.

"I am keen for as many people as possible to sign the treaty and for the treaty to be extended," he said.

India and Pakistan dispute the ownership of Kashmir and both control parts of the picturesque, predominantly Moslem province. The two countries have twice gone to war over Kashmir.

### Major Criticized for Visit

*LD2401090293 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 0843 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[By PRESS ASSOCIATION lobby correspondent Paul Bromley]

[Text] John Major today defended his trip to India against criticism that he should stay at home, saying there were powerful political, diplomatic and commercial reasons for visiting the country. Opposition parties have attacked the Prime Minister for going on a six-day visit to India and Oman instead of staying in Britain to deal with problems such as the proposed pit closures and recession as well as the crisis in Iraq, Bosnia and Somalia.

As he relaxed in the Indian sunshine in the garden of the residence of the British High Commissioner, the Prime Minister hit back at his critics. "I think that it is very misguided criticism. Diplomatically, commercially, economically, there is a very powerful reason for being here in India," he said. Mr Major added that the one million Indians in Britain would regard the invitiation for him to be chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations on Tuesday as an important one to accept. Mr Major will be the first British prime minister since Indian Independence in 1947 to attend the official parade.

He said India was a very important country around the world in diplomatic terms. On the economic side, the Prime Minister said Britain had a huge trade flow with India and there was a "dramatic" capacity for increasing it. "Exports abroad mean jobs at home and I have brought with me one of the highest powered business delegations ever to leave the United Kingdom," he told BBC Radio 4's The World This Weekend programme. Mr Major said the companies represented in the delegation had high hopes of winning substantial contracts in the medium term.

The Prime Minister flew into Delhi last night after an eight-hour flight from London. He is staying with the High Commissioner, Sir Nicholas Fenn and his wife Lady Fenn at their residence. Mr Major today took a walk in the luxurious gardens and played with the Fenn's Indian labrador dog, Char, short for Charlotte. His only official engagement today was to host a reception for members of the British community at the resident.

The Prime Minister begins his visit in earnest tomorrow when he will meet government ministers, including the Indian prime minister Narasimha Rao, and president Shankar Dayal Sharma. But the cricket- mad premier will not be attending any of the games of the England team currently touring India. The delegation of 17 British businessmen is led by Howard Davies, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry. Mr Major will pay a brief visit to Oman on his way back to Britain next Thursday.

### Talks Held With Rao, Sharma

*BK2501093493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 25 Jan 93*

[Text] India and Britain have signed an agreement to avoid double taxation in New Delhi today. The chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes, Mr. S. Ramamurthi, signed it on behalf of India, while the British high commissioner in New Delhi, Mr. Nicholas Fenn, initialed it on his country's behalf. The two prime ministers, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao and Mr. John Major, were present at the signing ceremony. The agreement will facilitate and further economic cooperation between the two countries.

Earlier, official talks between the two prime ministers and their officials were held this morning. The talks lasted more than two hours and covered a number of bilateral and international issues. The visiting high-level British business delegates also called on the prime minister.

In the morning, a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] marked the beginning of the official program of Mr. John Major. The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, several of his colleagues and other dignitaries accorded a warm welcome to the British premier. He was presented with an interservices guard of honor.

In an informal chat with newsmen, Mr. Major said his discussions with Mr. Rao will cover bilateral issues, trade, and regional and diplomatic matters. He said the present Indo-British relations are as good as at any time since independence and observed that there are practical reasons to indicate this. Mr. Narasimha Rao also expressed confidence that the talks between the two sides will be very useful. Mr. Rao said though Mr. Major's visit is a short one, India and Britain hope to have wide consultations to understand each other's points of view. Some agreements will also be signed. The British prime minister replied to the negative when asked whether he apprehends any threat to his security in the light of the arrest of some militants in the capital yesterday. Mr. Major said he is entirely content with the security arrangements.

The British prime minister later called on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, at Rashtrapati Bhavan. During their meeting lasting half an hour, Mr. John Major briefed the president on his discussions with Mr. Narasimha Rao. He described the talks as very worthwhile and frank. Dr. Sharma and Mr. Major exchanged views on matters relating to the Commonwealth and forging closer links between the people of India and the United Kingdom. The president hosted a lunch in honor of the visiting dignitary. Among those present were the vice president, the prime minister, and his cabinet colleagues.

### Importance of Major's Visit Viewed

*BK2301103893 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 16 Jan 93 p 6*

[Editorial: "Importance of Major's Visit"]

[Text] British Prime Minister John Major is coming to India toward the end of January. This will be the first important visit by a leader of a member state of the European Economic Community following its economic integration. The significance of the visit has increased since it is taking place in an atmosphere of political uncertainty created by the 6 December Ayodhya incident. This visit will also help define the image that this political uncertainty has created for us in the international community. It will help in easing public minds about illusions being spread daily by skeptics. The fact that the British prime minister will be accompanied by an influential team of entrepreneurs carries a lot of weight. It is worth considering that the companies linked to these entrepreneurs contribute more than one-third of the total British foreign investment. This proves that India's image as an economic entity worth investing in has not been hurt by recent incidents. Not only Britain, but all other countries' stance toward India has remained as before. Just a couple of days ago, (James David Berg), acting vice president of the American Overseas Private Investment Corporation, replying to questions in this connection by Indian reporters said that the Indian incidents will not affect the decision making process of foreign investors. Investments have their own dangers, whether they are made in home countries or abroad. Investors weigh many risks before investing.

In reality, the quality and quantity of foreign investments depend on the pace of economic reforms. By amending the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, the Indian Government has made it clear that the economic programs have not become victims of political uncertainty. The central government seems to have overcome the Left parties' blackmail and this is why there is no reason to slow down economic reforms. India has also signed the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agreement which provides protection guarantees to foreign investors against political risks. That is why it will not be surprising if Britain is successful in concluding deals with India during John Major's forthcoming visit. Britain's increasing enthusiasm in taking a pro-India stand on countering Pakistani-aided terrorism and at the GATT talks and other international forums reflects that it is very serious regarding further strengthening ties with India, and the current political environment has not dampened this enthusiasm.

### Terror Plan on Major Visit, Republic Day Foiled

*BK2401163893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1602 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 24 (AFP)—Police arrested four Sikh militants here Sunday and claimed to have foiled a plot to carry out terror bombings coinciding with Republic Day celebrations, where British Prime Minister John Major will be the chief guest.

The disclosure by Police Commissioner M.B. Kaushal came as Britain announced 90 million pounds (135 million U.S. dollars) in aid programmes for India and as Major spent a quiet Sunday before launching into the official part of his five-day visit.

Kaushal told reporters here that the four men had planned to blast government buildings here Tuesday through a powerful remote control device manufactured in Japan and smuggled in here from Canada.

He said the device, capable of setting off four simultaneous explosions from a distance of two kilometres (1.2 miles), was seized by police who raided a militant hideout in South Delhi early Sunday.

Kaushal did not name the buildings targeted by the would-be bombers, saying the militants' aim was to create terror in New Delhi, where Major is to preside as chief guest at Tuesday's Republic Day parade.

He said the arrests followed increased surveillance here on suspected Sikh militants, who are fighting for a separate homeland in Punjab state, as part of special security for Major's visit.

The "special tabs" had been mounted because of fears of attacks by militants aggrieved by an Indo-British agreement last year covering extradition and confiscation of property from "terrorists," the police chief said.

Major, who arrived overnight, spent a quiet day which a British High Commission spokesman said was "entirely private. He is relaxing today," before Monday's meetings with President Shankar Dayal Sharma, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and other Indian leaders.

The aid package included 84 million pounds for electricity projects. Six million pounds would go to modernise eight engineering colleges.

Major's trip, the first to India by a British premier since Margaret Thatcher in 1985, is expected to boost bilateral economic ties. India is the largest recipient of British bilateral aid, which totalled 136 million pounds last year.

Matters relating to nuclear non-proliferation and continuing India-Pakistan tensions over Kashmir, where Moslem secessionists are active, are also expected to come up at Major's meetings with Indian leaders.

India's new foreign minister, meanwhile, rejected a possible British role in resolving the Kashmir ownership dispute, saying it needed to be settled directly by India and Pakistan.

"Mediation between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir issue is not the answer and a solution lies in bilateral negotiations," Dinesh Singh told the UNITED NEWS OF INDIA in comments published by newspapers here Sunday.

It was in response to Major's comments to THE HINDUSTAN TIMES daily that he would suggest a dialogue between India and Pakistan over Kashmir.

"Our best action on behalf of all the people concerned about Kashmir is to try and encourage the sides to come together and deal with the longstanding and deeply-felt problems that exist there," Major told the newspaper.

He also said he wished India, Pakistan and China to take steps to reduce nuclear weapons believed to be in their possession, adding he was keen for "as many people as possible" to sign the nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

But Dinesh Singh, without mentioning Major by name, reiterated New Delhi's objections to the treaty, saying India did not want to "foreclose our nuclear option by signing the NPT when our neighbours are increasing their nuclear capabilities."

Major has been accorded the distinction of being the first British chief guest at India's Republic Day celebrations since the country proclaimed itself a republic in 1950, three years after independence from British rule.

### Major 'Happy' With Security on Visit

*LD2501081193 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 0602 GMT 25 Jan 93*

[Report by Paul Bromley from Delhi]

[Text] John Major today insisted he was "entirely happy" with security arrangements on his vist to India despite the arrest of four Sikh militants and the discovery of arms and ammunition. The Prime Minister said he felt under no threat but had no means of knowing whether the terrorist activity was linked to his trip. Delhi police have arrested four men and found a cache of remote controlled devices capable of triggering several explosions simultaneously at different places. The militants were reported be targetting tomorrow's Republic Day celebrations where Mr Major will the chief guest. Security detectives accompanying the Prime Minister were today contacting the local police to assess the implications of Mr Major's visit. But the Prime Minister was in relaxed mood today playing down the security threat. Asked whether he was happy with the security in India he replied: "entirely happy". Mr Major, speaking to journalists on his arrival at the presidential palace, said he felt "under no threat." When pressed on whether he thought the arrests were linked to his visit in any way the Prime Minister said: "I have no means of knowing but I am entirely happy with the security." Mr Major was at the palace in Delhi to receive a formal welcome to the country by President Shanker Dayal Sharma. The Prime Minister is staying at the palace for the next two nights before leaving for Bombay. Mr Major on the third day of a six-day trip to India and Oman was also meeting government ministers, including the prime minister Narasimha Rao. He was later laying a wreath at the burial place of Mahatma Gandhi, who led the campaign for Indian self rule and was assassinated in 1948. Mr Major will tonight make a keynote speech on Britain's relations with India at a banquet. He flew into Delhi from London on Saturday and spent a quiet Sunday basking in the Indian sunshine and seeing the sights. Senior government officials have defended the low-key start to the trip, saying it was a weekend and Mr Major wanted to read his briefing notes for the remainder of the programme. He has been criticised for going on a lengthy visit abroad instead of staying home to deal with problems such as the proposed pit closures and the recession as well as the crises in Iraq, Bosnia and Somalia. But the Prime Minister has described the criticism as "misguided" and said there are powerful political, diplomatic and commercial reasons for visiting India. Tomorrow, he will be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations—the first British Prime Minister to be honoured in this way since India's independence in 1947. A delegation of 17 leading British businessmen, led by Howard Davies, director-general of the CBI, are accompanying Mr Major on his trip. They are hoping to win contracts worth millions of pounds for investment in India. Mr Major will pay a brief visit to Oman on his way back to Britain next Thursday.

Government officials accompanying the prime minister insisted later there would be no change to his programme or arrangements. He was only told of the Sikh arrests this morning by the British High Commissioner Sir Nicholas Fenn.

The High Commission building was the target of terrorist threats from Sikhs about six months ago. Extra security was brought in and sandbags placed around the building, but no attack occurred.

There was some confusion today about the exact target of the Sikh militants. Some reports said they were planning to blow up Indian Government buildings. Others said that about six Indian terrorist groups had specifically targeted Mr. Major.

British sources made strenuous efforts today to play down the threat against him. They argued that the terrorists wanted to make their point on Republic Day and it was coincidental that Mr. Major was the chief guest. Senior officials said the possibility of a threat against him had been assessed by British security officers and their Indian counterparts before the trip.

Britain has signed an agreement with India covering extradition of alleged terrorists and the repatriation of assets to stop the Sikh communities in Britain supplying funds to the terrorists in India.

The issue of terrorism was high on the agenda during Mr. Major's talks today with the Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao.

Major British officials said the two prime ministers had agreed their countries should work together to crack down on terrorism. Mr. Major was firm about Britain's attitude in an interview yesterday for All India Radio, which is run by the Indian Government. Asked what more could be done to ensure that British soil was not used for terrorism he replied: "I think the broad structure of law is now in place in order to deal with terrorism. It is the implementation of the law that is now necessary to make sure that it is satisfactorily dealt with. We devote a great deal of time and effort to dealing with terrorism in all its aspects in so far as the United Kingdom is concerned. We will certainly continue to do that."

The terrorism issue today seems likely to overshadow the prime minister's other engagements in Delhi. He was given the red carpet treatment when he was formally welcomed to India today by the president, Shankar Dayal Sharma. A guard of honour greeted him at the presidential palace amid echoes of Britain's imperial past. The building, where he is staying until he leaves Delhi for Bombay on Wednesday, was built in 1929 and used by the viceroys before India's independence.

Mr. Major, on the first day of a six-day trip to Indian and Oman, signed an agreement with Mr. Rao to end the double taxation of company profits and dividends. The Indian premier also pledged that he would continue with the country's economic reforms.

Mr. Major was later laying a wreath at the burial place of Mahatma Gandhi, who led India's campaign for self-rule before he was assassinated in 1948. Tonight, the prime minister will make a keynote banquet speech on Britain's relations with India.

## 'Major Tragedy' Averted

*BK2401162093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] Delhi police have arrested four Punjab militants and averted a major tragedy on the eve of Republic Day. The police commissioner, Mr. M.D. Kaushal, told newsmen in New Delhi today that the four had planned to indulge in violent acts, including blasting of government buildings in the capital. Special branch of Delhi police arrested one of the militants at the New Delhi railway station last night. On his interrogation, a house in South Delhi was raided and three of his accomplices arrested early this morning.

### Punjab Militants Say Arms From Pakistan

*BK2401163293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] The Delhi Police have arrested four Punjab militants planning to indulge in acts of violence in the capital. The city police commissioner, Mr. M.D. Kaushal, told newspersons in New Delhi today that the police recovered from them a sophisticated explosive device, light cartridges, and some incriminating documents. The militants disclosed that they were procuring arms and ammunition from Pakistan through Kashmir militants. According to the police, they were involved in several killings in Punjab. One of the militants was arrested at the New Delhi railway station last night while three of his accomplices were taken into custody early this morning from a house in South Delhi. They have been remanded to police custody for 15 days.

### Muslim Board Urges Muslims to Celebrate Republic Day

*BK2501111893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 25 Jan 93*

[Text] The All India Muslim Personal Law Board has appealed to all Muslims in the country to celebrate the Republic Day tomorrow with hope and courage. In an appeal inserted as an advertisement in a newspaper in Bangalore this morning, the board said the Republic Day is a day of hope for millions of Indians. This day gave us the rights which guaranteed equal opportunity to diverse cultures and languages to flourish and retain their distinct identities. It said let the secular forces come forward and defend the great ideals of the Republic and the Constitution with all their might.

### Russian Envoy Comments on Yeltsin's Upcoming Visit

*BK2301160293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] The minister of state for External Affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, today said the Russian president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin's, visit to India next week will be a watershed in India-U.S. ties and will open a new productive chapter in bilateral relations. Speaking at a symposium on Indian-Russian relations in New Delhi today, Mr. Bhatia said that several agreements will be signed during Mr. Yeltsin's visit. The Russian ambassador, Mr. Anatoliy Dryukov, said his country attaches great importance to President Yeltsin's visit to India and the visit will further develop the valuable ties between the two countries.

The first deputy prime minister of Russia, Mr. Vladimir Shumeyko, now in New Delhi, called on the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao. The meeting has been described as a courtesy call. Mr. Shumeyko is in the capital as the head of a high-level delegation in preparation for the Russian president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin's, three-day visit to India from Wednesday [27 January]. During the last four days the Russian delegation had substantial discussions with the Indian leaders on various aspects of bilateral relations.

### Yeltsin Greets Leaders, Urges Renewal of Ties

*BK2401132093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] The Russian president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, has expressed confidence that India and Russia will succeed in giving impetus to the renewal of their bilateral relations during his forthcoming visit to New Delhi. In a message of greetings to the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, and the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, on the occasion of Republic Day, he said that the two countries are linked by strong bonds of mutually beneficial cooperation.

### Indian Airlines Plane Hijacked in Lucknow

*BK2201162893 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 22 Jan 93*

[Text] An Indian Airlines plane on its flight from Patna to Delhi was hijacked this evening. The hijacker calling himself by the name of Satish Pandey said he possessed a bomb. He asked to meet the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, to whom he would convey his demands. The plane which had taken off from Lucknow on its onward journey to Delhi returned to Lucknow with all the 48 passengers on board. Mr. Vajpayee, who was in Luchnow, was being contacted when reports last came in. The adviser to the U.P. [Uttar Pradesh] governor, Mr. Goswami, is now at the airport to negotiate with the hijacker. All the 48 passengers are safe.

### Hijacker Surrenders

*BK2201163893 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1627 GMT 22 Jan 93*

[Text] Here is another flash. The brief hijack drama in Lucknow is now over. The advisor to the U.P. [Uttar Pradesh] governor, Mr. Goswami, has informed the Doordarshan news room that all the 48 passengers have now got off the plane and are safe. The hijacker has surrendered.

### BJP Calls Hijack 'Conspiracy'

*BK2301013493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] The hijacker of the Indian Airlines flight from Patna to Delhi via Lucknow last evening surrendered after a brief drama at Lucknow airport. The Indian Airlines spokesman told our correspondent that the flight 810 was hijacked shortly after it was airborne from Lucknow and was forced to return to the airport. All the 48 passengers on board were released later. The hijacker identified himself as one S. Pandey of Sultanpur surrendered to the authorities. The hijacker wanted the BJP

[Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, to be present at the airport to talk. Mr. Vajpayee also reached the airport and talked to him. The airlines spokesman said that all the passengers of the flight are being brought to Delhi today.

The BJP president, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, has condemned the hijacking of an Indian Airlines plane. In a statement in New Delhi, he described the action as a conspiracy to tarnish the image of his party. The BJP president demanded an independent and thorough inquiry into the incident.

### Communist Parties Condemn Hijacking

*BK2301131493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] The Communist Parties have condemned the attempt at hijacking the Indian Airlines plane yesterday. In separate press statements in New Delhi today, the CPI-M [Communist Party of India- Marxist] has said that this action should be a warning to the country that the unleashing of the communal passions by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] have led to the forces which are prepared to utilize all sorts of illegal methods to challenge the Constitution and the rule of law. Condemning the inident, the CPI [Communist Party of India] said the continuous fanning of extremist communal sentiments can give birth to what it called Frankenstein monster which ultimately can go beyond the control of its creators.

All the 48 passengers of the Indian Airlines aircraft which was hijacked yesterday reached New Delhi today. According to airlines sources the passengers included the union ministers, Mr Sitaram Kesari and Mrs. Krishna Sahi.

### BJP Denies Connection With Hijacking

*BK2301145693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, has demanded a detailed inquiry into the recent disturbanes in Ahmedabad and Bombay. Talking to newsmen in Ahmedabad this morning, he expressed grief over the loss of innocent lives in Gujarat and Maharashtra during the disturbances. He called for stern action to prevent smuggling of arms from across the border, particularly in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

The party has described yesterday's hijacking incident as unfortunate. Its leader, Mr. S.S. Bhandari, denied that the hijacker had any connection with the party. He said Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee went into the plane to negotiate with the hijacker only to save the lives of passengers.

Mr. Bhandari also criticized the home minister's statement that the Government is considering to ban the Shiv Sena.

Meanwhile, all the 48 passengers of the Indian Airlines aircraft which was hijacked yesterday reached New Delhi today. According to airlines sources the passengers included the union ministers, Mr. Sitaram Kesari and Mrs. Krishna Sahi.

### One Killed in Surat, Indefinite Curfew Imposed

*BK2501033493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 25 Jan 93*

[Text] In Gujarat, one person was killed in a stabbing incident in Surat City yesterday. An indefinite curfew has been imposed in Rander police station area of Surat city last night following the violence.

### Tamil Nadu Blasts Damage Gandhi Statue, Offices

*BK2501110293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0930 GMT 25 Jan 93*

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, three explosions have been reported from different places early this morning. According to police sources, the explosion at the Villupuram municipal office blasted the statue of Gandhiji [Mahatma Gandhi]. The other explosions at Attur near Salem and Kudavasal near Nagappattinam have caused damage to the local Congress-I party offices. No casualty has been reported. A Tamil Nadu extremist group is suspected to have planted the bombs.

### Protest Lodged Over Bangladesh Resolution on Ayodhya

*BK2201130493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 22 Jan 93*

[Text] India has taken strong exception to the resolution passed by the Bangladesh Parliament on Wednesday on the Ayodhya incident. Categorically rejecting the resolution, New Delhi termed it as totally unacceptable interference in India's internal affairs. Expressing deep regret, the External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that by indulging in public denunciation of India's policy, the ruling BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] in Bangladesh has arrogated to itself the right to advise on matters in which it has no locus standi. He said while India desires friendly relations with Bangladesh, it will insist that the bilateral relations should continue to be governed only by acceptable norms and principles. Therefore, he said, New Delhi will not (?endorse) the future action of the Bangladesh Government with due attention. The spokesman pointed out that the resolution completely ignored the tragic and violent reactions in Bangladesh resulting in extensive damage and destruction of hundreds of temples, houses, and other properties of minorities in that country.

## Iran

### Friday Sermon Calls For Muslim Pressure on UN

*LD2201155993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 22 Jan 93*

[Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani, Council of Guardians spokesman, in Tehran on 22 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Our problems are those that have been widely reported by the media. The problems of the Islamic ummah are not hidden to anyone. What can one do with this tragic situation that has befallen the Islamic peoples. What is the raison d'etre of the United Nations? Nearly half a century ago, when the United Nations was formed, its mandates included: prevention of aggression; preservation of the rights of nations; and providing a correct economic system to mankind on earth. That is the philosophy of the United Nations. But we see today that the United Nations is controlled by world arrogance.

In Bosnia-Hercegovina, there is so much killing of innocent people—men, women, and children—and in Lebanon and Palestine there are so many crimes committed, but we see the reaction of the United Nations in those places. In Iraq: What do they do to the Iraqi nation because of the action of Iraq's foolish and wicked government? What have the Iraqi people, the people of that great country, done wrong? [passage omitted]

The usurper Israel does what she wants and nothing happens, and she is even assisted. In the case of the Serbian aggression they are given assistance. To whom should one tell this? Who will protect mankind? Is it the United Nations with all its weakness and impotence? [passage omitted]

When the United Nations was formed they said: You can't have a country amassing weapons any longer. He should go and see to his economy. His money should be spent on his country and not on buying weapons. But today they are committing crimes by relying on spears and weapons. Today, world arrogance relies on force, on the bayonet, on the spilling of blood. This is the miserable state of the world.

But the good tidings that Islam brings to the Islamic society—that such a society will come about—does not mean that Muslims should sit there cross-legged hoping for that day. No, it is based on this principle: O mankind, don't think the White House will remain forever. No, it will be destroyed. [Crowd chants "Islam is victorious," "America will be destroyed"] God willing! [passage omitted]

O Islamic ummah, you are one-fifth of the people of the world. Arise! The peoples of the world are with you. Fight the powers! The meaning that human society will see a new dawn is that human society must move toward that day. Human society must not tolerate oppression and crime, just as the proud Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Lebanon, Palestine, and all the corners of this world who have arisen on the basis of Islam did not and will not tolerate oppression. They have stood on their feet by relying on God. [passage omitted]

The Islamic world must ask the United Nations: O UN, how long are you going to remain indifferent? For how long are you not going to support the oppressed and not act upon your legal duty? This is the duty of writers and thinkers. They must warn the international circles and spur them on. You can't have one person, or a group of evil people, doing what they want with their bayonets.

Another subject that I would like to talk to you about briefly is the 22d of Bahman [11 February] and the Islamic revolution, which was based on the people's faith, people's sincerity. [passage omitted] It was our youth, our revolutionary guards, and our children who offered their breasts against the bullets. In the imposed war—when our enemies made the Iraqi idol attack us and wreak so much havoc on us—they kept the truth with all their self-sacrifice. It is a day when, God willing, with the presence of our country and our nation in the arena, Islam will regularly bring its message [fekr] to the world. At this moment also it is demonstrated that the Islamic thought and Islamic movement is penetrating everywhere, praise be to God. [passage omitted]

### Prayers Leader Scorns Clinton's Inauguration Speech

*LD2201192393 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1509 GMT 22 Jan 93*

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah 'Ali Akbar Meshkini in Qom—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Today the world must be aware that it is divided into two parts: One part is made up of those who draw support from spirituality. Then there are those who are supported on three legs. Today, all countries of the world, and at the head of them the United States and its lackeys, are supported by three legs—three legs which could easily be broken and destroyed; one leg is weapons, one is dollars, and the other is diplomacy or espionage; in other words, money, force, and deceit. And none of them has the power to attract mankind.

There is another nation, on the other hand, which is endowed with spirituality, and they are the world's Muslims. You must be aware that Muslims have always stood and continue to stand against infidels. Victory belongs to you. It is you who draw support from spirituality. [passage omitted]

I have one final word to say and that is regarding the new U.S. President, Bill Clinton, who has just taken office. The previous ones, well, whatever they were, spades, or I don't know what, this one has turned out to be a shovel [punning reference to the word "bill", meaning shovel].

The first words of this one, the moment he set foot on the scene, entering the White House in that extraordinary manner and amid such pomp and ceremony which is typical of the Great Satan. [sentence as heard] The cost of his inauguration ceremony during which he delivered his first speech came to 20 million [currency not specified].

After he was made President, and after all that money was spent, he opened his mouth to issue an ultimatum to the entire world, saying: The world must be guarded by us; We will pursue the policy of that so and so [reference to former President Bush] on Iraq; we are this and we are that.

We here, for our part, beseech Almighty God to deliver Islam and Muslims from the evils of these people. [passage omitted]

### Commentary Says Clinton Has 'Clear Mission'

*LD2201183993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1445 GMT 22 Jan 93*

[Unattributed commentary from the "Weekly Report" program]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Now Clinton has arrived at the White House with a clear mission ahead of him. He has committed himself to reconstruct the United States' economic and social structure, take control of the leadership of the world economy, and reorganize the cold war army to respond to the new security needs.

Clinton attaches such importance to the strengthening of the economy that he has established an Economic Security Council to work side by side with the National Security Council; he does not see the two as two separate entities.

The major difference between Bush and Clinton also begins here. Clinton attaches significance to the United Nations and the U.S. diplomacy in that organization. Therefore he has raised the rank of the U.S. representative at the United Nations to ministerial level. But during the last hours of his Presidency, Bush fired tens of cruise missiles and staged extensive raids against Iraq in order to tell other countries that the United States possesses the strongest war machine.

Even though Clinton has not disagreed with Bush's recent actions it seems that he will resort to force less to advance his foreign policy. If the U.S. leadership finds it necessary to intervene militarily it will consider three major principles as follows: that success is guaranteed, that the intended goal is achieved quickly, and that military intervention will not bring long-term commitments for the United States.

Considering that the U.S. Army was organized during the last few decades to confront the Soviet and Warsaw Pact threats, its structure should now be reformed to confront possible crises created by the new international situation.

As Clinton has stressed, in the future the U.S. Army will enjoy the highest capacity to act and will be equipped with the most advanced ultramodern technology which will in practice minimize the need for manpower.

In any case it should be said that contrary to George Bush who did not follow a clear method in his foreign and domestic policy, Clinton is beginning his work with a clear plan.

### Clinton's Foreign Policy, Statments Viewed

*LD2301140393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1108 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Unattributed commentary: "Bill Clinton's Foreign Policy"]

[Text] Speaking on his foreign policy in his first speech after his presidential inauguration, Bill Clinton said that America must clearly continue its world leadership and stressed that to defend vital American interests he will, if need be, make use of force as well. Maybe on its own the declaration of such a position by an American President is not seen as unusual, but Clinton found his way into the White House with the slogan that he wishes to be the President of America, not like Bush—who wanted to be the leader of the world.

Although it is rare for a president-elect—not only in America but throughout the world—to fulfill his electoral promises during the process of assuming power, but what draws attention here is that his statements are similar to those of Reagan and Bush to such an extent that political experts believe no reflection of the power change can be discerned in the matter of foreign policy.

To analyze this one can specifically refer to two points. First, Clinton—taking into account his lack of experience in foreign policy—is completely under the influence of his advisers and relies on his foreign policy team. Second: As he comes to see himself powerless to fulfill his pledges regarding the cutting by half of the budget deficit within the next four years, reducing taxes for the middle class, reducing the White House staff by 25 percent, and revitalizing the American economy, he is trying to overshadow his internal weakness by entering international adventurism—just like former presidents.

But other experts believe that Bush's performance during the last days of his presidency, regarding sending forces to Somalia and escalating the attacks against Iraq, may have presented Clinton with a fait accompli. And, even if it is for the short term, he may have no other course but to follow Bush's policy.

On the other hand, Clinton has come to power at a time when, willy-nilly, foreign policy issues will take up a considerable part of his energy and he will not be able—as he promised—to focus all his efforts towards reforming the American economic and social structures.

The issues of the Middle East peace talks, Haitian refugees, Yugoslav crisis, Iraq, Somalia, and assisting Eastern Europe are problems with which Clinton has become unwillingly involved. On the other hand, he is well aware of the limitations of American foreign policy. Within the last two years, America, besides an all-out attack against Iraq, limiting the sway of Saddam's regime in the north and south, and extensive sanctions has still not managed to see the changes it wants realized in Iraq. This is at a time when America has even provoked criticism from its allies and concern from regional states about the real American intentions in the Middle East. It seems that Clinton has to embark on making an early major choice. Either follow through with the Republican interventionist policies and in the arena of economic competition leave the field to rivals or, by adopting a realistic policy, consider only the interests of the real American people and follow this path.

At any rate, Clinton finds himself as the President of a country that is the world's sole super power. That is why the leadership and policing of the world are temptations that will always be with him in the next four years.

## Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets OPEC's Parra

*LD2401120793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1000 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received Olirio Parra, Venezuelan minister of energy and mines and head of the OPEC conference. During the meeting the president stressed that oil is part of the national wealth which belongs to all nations and that oil producing countries have a responsibility toward their future generations. He said: The oil producing countries would achieve a 20 percent increase in their incomes if they reduced their production level by 10 percent. That would only be possible if exporting countries strengthened and adhered to OPEC decisions.

The president expressed satisfaction at Venezuela's decision to reduce its oil output. He stated: The Islamic Republic of Iran is producing less than its capacity in order to stabilize oil prices.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani criticized the undermining of OPEC quotas by a number of oil producing countries. He declared: This has reduced oil prices and is in fact a violation of the peoples' rights. In the end it will serve the interests of the industrial and consuming countries.

The president stressed the need for OPEC member countries to be decisive in the implementation of that organization's decisions to stop reducing oil prices. Referring to the convening of the next OPEC session, he said: It is expected that OPEC members will seriously endeavor to stabilize fair oil prices. The Islamic Republic of Iran has always taken the first step in order to bring this about and has acted toward achieving true oil prices.

During the meeting, at which Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh was also present, the Venezuelan minister of energy and mines presented a written message from his country's president. He said that the remarks of our country's president about OPEC were hopeful and encouraging for the continuation of that organization's path. He further expressed the hope that during the next OPEC session all member countries will further coordinate and take effective steps, within the framework of OPEC decisions, to reduce oil production, which would result in an increase in oil prices.

## Iranian, Afghan Officials Discuss Kabul Situation

*LD2401163693 Tehran IRNA in English 1604 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA—Recent developments in Afghanistan especially the situation in Kabul, were discussed between senior officials from Iran and Afghanistan here Saturday [23 January].

The talks were held between Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs Ala'eddin Borujerdi and Secretary of the Afghan "Hezb-e-Wahdat-e Eslami-ye" (Islamic Unity Party) mission in Tehran Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Fayyaz.

Fayyaz hailed Iran's efforts in bringing security and stability to Afghanistan and said that his party hoped the current clashes in Kabul would end as soon as possible.

Borujerdi said Tehran was fully concerned with living condition of Afghan Muslim people and expressed hope that they could embark on reconstruction efforts in a "peaceful environment" despite the adverse economic condition and cold weather.

He stressed that war and bloodshed was the "worst possible alternative" in the settlement of current problems in Afghanistan, and hoped that negotiations and mutual understanding would soon replace conflicts.

## 'Zionist Regime' Action on Deportees Viewed

*LD2401162993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1102 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] The Zionist regime, in order to reduce international pressure, yesterday allowed several of the Palestinian deportees to return to the occupied lands. When the Zionist regime expelled more than 400 Palestinians from their homeland 37 days ago, it did not think that it would be forced to reconsider this action.

The Lebanese Government's toughness in preventing the Palestinian deportees from entering the liberated lands and the deportees remaining in the occupied southern region of that country kept the crisis unresolved and in the news. Because of this situation and the extensive objections by Islamic states against the West's double standard, the UN Security Council issued Resolution 799 in which it demanded that Israel return the Palestinian deportees to their homes.

Israel's opposition to the UN resolution and the increase in Islamic and Arab states' pressure in international forums made the Security Council tell Israel that the Council can no longer ignore Israel's opposition to UN resolutions.

The combination of all these factors has placed the Zionist regime and its leaders under the pressure of various international and world opinions. In order to reduce these pressures, Zionist leaders have so far embarked on various ploys, including an acknowledgement to the effect that some of the Palestinian deportees were expelled by mistake. They have used this method several times. The final outcome of this ploy was the return to the occupied lands of 13 Palestinians yesterday evening.

Meanwhile, what has attracted the attention of those who are politically knowledgeable is the Zionist force's action in arresting the 13 returned Palestinians, whose expulsion was a mistake according to this very regimes's confession. These political observers believe the reason for this behavior is that the Zionist regime hoped to inflict a heavy blow against the Islamic movement organization of the occupied lands by arresting and deporting the Muslim leaders of the Palestinian intifadah and through this to prepare the ground for a compromise with non-Islamic forces.

Last week, the Zionist regime lifted the ban on talks with non-Muslim Palestinian groups that formerly were considered to be terrorists. Now that the Lebanese Government and the steadfastness of the deported Palestinians have prevented this plot to be carried out, however, the pressure of international and public opinion on the Zionist regime has increased, and the leaders of that regime find themselves practically at a dead end. They are neither able to ignore the pressure of international and public opinion nor to completely undo their former action without any negative consequences.

The Zionist regime is apprehensive that, if it agrees to the return of the Palestinians, intifadah will soar and the deportees will become the nucleus of the organized leadership in future activities and in the increase of struggle against the Zionist regime. This forces the Zionist regime to search for a middle-course solution. By activating the judicial establishment, the Zionist regime's prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, has involved it in this incident for the second time. The judiciary are to give their view on the legality of the expulsion of the Palestinians.

Political experts predict that the Zionist regime will gradually embark on several retreats in this regard, but in order to stem any negative internal consequences and a general excitement among the Palestinians, it will continue to the best of its ability to arrest Palestinians and prevent them from becoming a rallying point.

## Prosecutor General on Political Prisoners

*LD2401123693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] Mr. Musavi-Tabrizi, the prosecutor general, has announced that 70 percent of the country's prisoners are drug smugglers and addicts. At present there are no political prisoners in Iran, he stated.

Musavi-Tabrizi, who was speaking at a news conference, added: Very few of the prisoners belong to the grouplets [opposition groups such as the Mojahedin-e Khalq]. Noting that a number of the National Freedom Movement [Nehzat-e Azadi] members have been recently released, he emphasized: World arrogance, through its mendacious propaganda and its agents, is attempting to represent the imprisoned drug smugglers as political prisoners.

Musavi-Tabrizi stated: Various countries have praised the decisiveness of the Islamic Republic of Iran in its campaign against narcotics and drug addiction; the Islamic Republic's initiative was supported in the recent congress attended by a number of foreign interior ministers in Tehran. He added: Several European countries have acknowledged that Iran's resolute battle against narcotics would also curb the spread of narcotics and their dangerous and negative impact in Europe.

The prosecutor general described the eminent leader's advice to the judiciary, aimed at the realization of Islamic social justice, as a great asset for the judicial authorities. He said: Judiciary officials are constantly trying to implement the leader's orders accurately.

In the news conference, Mr. Musavi-Tabrizi also pointed to a recent clash between insurgents and law enforcement forces in the country's southeastern region. He said: The clash resulted in the killing or arrest of 30 of the insurgents.

Declaring that all judicial sentences go through two stages, he said: The second stage of the sentences passed by courts are categorical and binding, and cannot be reviewed. He added: The implementation of clause 35 of the civil law is also a responsibility of the country's chief justice and the prosecutor general; these two officials can make a decision regarding cases that warrant review of a sentence.

Pointing to a reduction in the time spent on dealing with judicial files, Mr. Musavi-Tabrizi said: In spite of the limited resources at the disposal of the county's judicial system, the matter of dealing with files is progressing rapidly, and sentences are being issued in a maximum period of six months.

Concluding his remarks, the prosecutor general remarked on the importance of the judical apparatus, and called for the provision of the resources required by the judicial branch.

## Majles Approves Generalities of Budget Bill

*LD2401132393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] The generalities [koliyyat] of the bill for the general budget for 1372 [year beginning 21 March] were approved during today's open session of the Majles.

According to our correspondent's report, deputies spoke for and against the generalities of the budget. They also heard the explanations provided by the head of planning and budget and the governor of the Central Bank. Voting then took place and the generalities of the bill for the budget for next year were approved by a decisive majority.

## Unchecked Energy Consumption Threatens Oil Exports

*LD2301155893 Tehran IRNA in English 1536 GMT 23 Jan 93*

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 23, IRNA—An economic official says that energy consumption in Iran is now four times it was 18 years ago and that if such a trend is to continue, oil exports will drop to nil before the coming to the scene of the next generation.

In an interview printed in the "HAMSHAHRI" last week, Deputy Managing Director of Iran's Plan and Budget Organization Mohammad-Ja'far Eslami, noted that the true value of such an annual energy consumption in the country was about dlrs [dollars] 12.5 billion for which the people paid only rls. [rials] 2000 billion.

"Therefore, on the basis of rls. 1400 for each U.S. dollar, the government will have to pay about rls. 15,000 billion in subsidies for energy next year," Eslami said. In other words, he added, each household of five, will receive about rls. 100,000 in subsidies for energy consumption every month.

According to the experts, by the end of the Iranian calendar year 1357 (March 20, 1979), as much as rls. 135 billion had been invested on energy, including oil, gas and electricity projects, which rose to rls. 505 billion by the year 1369.

The national budget bill for the upcoming Iranian year 1372 (beginning March 21, 1993) provides rials 4,700 billion (25 percent of government's investments) in credit for the energy sector.

Eslami added that prior to the 1979 revolution there were 53,000 household subscribers to the National Iranian Gas Company which figure increased to 1.650 million this year and is expected to increase to about two million by the end of the next year (March 1994).

In the calendar year 1357 only five towns and cities in Iran were provided with piped city gas whereas at the moment 141 towns and cities were equipped with such facilities, the official said.

He further added that the nominal capacity of the country's power plants had doubled since 1357, while the number of subscribers had tripled and the number of electrified villages grown six times during the same period.

Eslami noted that preparations were underway to improve energy production by 15,000 megawatts of which 1,750 megawatts would be added to the current capacity in the next Iranian year.

The bulk of energy consumption in Iran was mainly for household purposes and, therefore, it was no sign of national economic development, he commented.

In calendar year 1351, the total national energy consumption was 99.1 million barrels which rose to 395 million barrels in the year 1369, a quadrupled increase over a period of eighteen years, Eslami said.

He added that the per capita energy consumption which was 3.3 barrels in the year 1357 increased to 6.9 barrels in 1369, showing an average growth rate of 4.2 percent annually.

Consumption of petrol rose from about five billion liters in the year 1357 to 7.6 billion liters in the year 1368, an average increase of about 3.2 percent each year.

In a period from March to October this year, petrol consumption rose by 10.8 percent as compared with the same period last year, said the official.

He added that in the area of gas the annual consumption of 2.5 billion cubic meters in the Iranian year 1357 rose to 25 billion cubic meters in the current Iranian year 1371, an average growth of about 18 percent.

Eslami said that national electricity consumption rose from 14.3 billion Kwh in the year 1357 to 53.7 billion Kwh in the current year.

Given that the above figures indicate uncontrolled consumption patterns, experts and economists say that three basic tasks should be undertaken to remedy the situation.

Eslami pointed to the three measures as: Adjustment of prices and costs to the interest of the economically least affluent sectors of the Iranian society, government subsidies for economization purposes and, imposition of restrictive regulations that will tend to discourage large consumption by consumers.

For the time being, he noted, ten percent of the upper strata of the Iranian society received between rls. 300,000 and 400,000 in subsidies whereas ten percent of the lower strata of the society received about rls. 20,000 and 30,000 for energy. In the electricity sector only 20 percent of the people received 60 percent of government subsidies, he added.

For the regular petrol next year about rls. 1,585 billion (on the basis of rls. 1400 for each U.S. dollar) will be paid out in government subsidies and for the super petrol, which is a luxury item, the government subsidy will be rls. 7000 million.

In other countries, the official said, the state would collect tax for each barrel of oil, adding that in terms of energy prices in Turkey and Canada, Iran will consume dlrs. 32 billion worth of energy and in terms of energy prices in Germany, as much as dlrs. 36 billion next year.

The fuel Iran provided to jet planes was computed at rials 70 per dollar, and if energy pattern in Iran should happen to copy that in Turkey, our revenues would then go up by dlrs. six billion per year with which 14,000 schools, each with 12 classes, could be built in various parts of the country each year.

Experts in the Plan and Budget Organization maintain that the only possible way out of the present crisis would be to decide to economize on energy consumption in the years ahead.

## Pakistan

### Sharif Welcomes Major Proposal on Kashmir

*BK2401163693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has welcomed UK Prime Minister John Major's proposal for India and Pakistan to hold a dialogue to resolve the Kashmir issue. It has been officially stated in Islamabad that the prime minister referred to his own proposal to the Indian prime minister to initiate talks under the Simla Agreement. He reaffirmed Pakistan's readiness to hold purposeful negotiations with India in order peacefully to resolve the Kashmir issue in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. The prime minister lauded the British prime minister's proposal for a peaceful solution of the Kashmir issue and expressed the hope that John Major's personal interest will help in removing the present impasse.

### Sharif Supports Saudi Call for Afghan Talks

*BK2501145693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 25 Jan 93*

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has supported the call by the khadem al-haramain al-sharifain [custodian of the two holy mosques] King Fahd for a meeting of Afghan leaders in Saudi Arabia to resolve their differences through negotiations. In a statement issued in Islamabad, the prime minister emphasized that in Afghanistan the need of the hour is to eschew the use of force and to initiate a serious dialogue for resolution of political differences which would lead to durable peace and conciliation. The prime minister said the Government of Pakistan shares the pain and anguish of the Saudi Government over the unfortunate fighting in Afghanistan after the establishment of the mojahedin government which has resulted in the tragic death of thousands of innocent civilians and loss of property, tarnishing the image of jihad.

Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif lauded the material, diplomatic and political support of Saudi Arabia during the glorious Afghan jihad and called upon the Afghan brothers to observe immediate cease-fire in order to create a conducive atmosphere as a prelude to the negotiations proposed by Saudi Arabia.

### Afghan Peace Mission Fails To Make Progress

*BK1701131293 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 17 Jan 93 p 5*

[Text] Peshawar—The Afghan peace mission, currently visiting Peshawar in a bid to convince Mojahedin leaders living in Pakistan to travel to Kabul for talks on the country's future, received a setback on Saturday when Mowlawi Yunes Khales refused to meet it and Sebghatollah Mojadeddi demanded resignation of the Rabbani government before any meaningful dialogue.

The mission, led by General Ghulan Gul Musieh, had reached Peshawar from Kabul on Wednesday. It has been holding meetings with Mojahedin leaders since its arrival and urging them to return to Afghanistan in order to restore peace and political stability. The mission had earlier held talks with President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Hezb-e Eslami chief Golboddin Hebmatyar.

Khales, who heads his own faction of Hezb-e Eslami, reportedly refused to meet the peace mission as some of its members were Shi'ites. Khales is known for his opposition to any formula giving representation to groups on the basis of sect, language or ethnicity.

Prof Mojadeddi, who heads the moderate Afghan National Liberation Front, told the mission that the rootcause of Afghanistan's present problems was Rabbani's and defence minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's insistence to cling to power despite opposition by most parties and Afghans. He said Rabbani should hand over power to the Leadership Council which would that elect a new president. He also refuted the contention of the Rabbani government that the leadership council, comprising heads of nine parties, was no longer in existence and argued that Rabbani had no power to dissolve it.

Mojaddedi termed the Shura (?Hal-o-Aqd), convened by the Rabbani government, as fake and unrepresentative and claimed he could hold a dozen such shuras and get himself elected as president. He felt a meeting between Mojahedin leaders should be held outside Kabul due to the insecurity in the capital.

Prominent members of the peace mission include Shia leader Shaykh Asef Mohseni, who heads the Harakat-e Eslami and Dr Mohammad (?Shikliq) Mohammand, Gen. (?Rahmatulla) Safi and commanders (?Bilal Mairani) and Deedar. The mission also aims at arranging an exchange of prisoners between the Rabbani government and Hezbe-Eslami (Hekmatyar).

### Government To Take Measures Against Illegal Immigrants

*BK1901131193 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Jan 93 p 12*

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 18—The Federal Government has decided to take effective steps to extern illegal immigrants, who had come to Pakistan on different pretexts and were still living here creating host of complications for the people and the government.

With the decision, all the crusaders, who took part in Afghan Jihad, would be dispatched to their native homelands. The Foreign Office has started three-day deliberations on the subject, with M Akram Zaki, Secretary General Foreign Affairs, in chair.

On the first day of the series of the meeting on Monday, Aziz A Munshi, Attorney General and high officials of the Ministry of law joined the high officials concerned of the Foreign Ministry, took stock of the various aspects of the issue from the legal point of view.

Senior officials of the Interior Ministry would participate in Tuesday's deliberations, with the detailed reports gathered by intelligence agencies, sources said. On the last day, Wednesday the provincial governments would join the meeting to give final shape to the decisions.

Sources close to the Foreign Office told THE MUSLIM on Monday evening that 1.5 million illegal immigrants, who had entered Pakistan in the wake of Afghan Jihad and other occasions had created embarrassing situation for the host government. The unlawful immigrants had brought bad name for Pakistan due to their activities, detrimental to their native governments. The issue about the immigrants, who had crossed the border from India, and after extending their stay, merged into the local population, was also being discussed separately.

According to sources, the government had come to know through different reports that Indian officials had been depriving Pakistani visitors of their documents, which were being used for nefarious purposes by the Indian officials. Islamabad was also evolving some method to stop this practice and catch hold of those people, who had come to Pakistan on such documents. An unofficial report said notorious Indian intelligence agency 'RAW' [Research and Analysis Wing] was using these documents for intruding its trained people into Pakistan.

A crackdown on the illegal immigrants would be undertaken in the light of three-day deliberations of the Foreign Office, towards the end of the month. The detailed report about the decisions of the meetings would be presented to the Prime Minister next week, sources added.

### Hopes for Improved U.S. Ties Under Clinton

*BK2401140093 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 22 Jan 93 p 6*

[Editorial: "Clinton: Promise of Renewal"]

[Text] Mr. Bill Clinton has been sworn in as the 42nd President of the United States of America. In his inaugural address he declared that he would use "peaceful diplomacy and force, if necessary," to deal with the problems of an unstable world. He said the collapse of communism had left the world more free but less stable and warned those who defy the international community that the US would act to enforce compliance. Declaring that the American resolve had been tested in the Gulf and Somalia, he vowed that the US would maintain its leadership role. He said poverty, fear of crime, the cost of health care and unemployment had impoverished the lives of millions of Americans. He said in the face of profound and powerful forces which were re-shaping the world, the United States had drifted, but he promised that the drift was over. Earlier, talking to a group of South Asian students from Philadelphia University over the Kashmir issue, he declared: "We are interested only in what the Kashmiris want."

Democrat Bill Clinton, who succeeds Republican George Bush, brings to the White House the kind of energy, verve and reformist zeal one would expect from a youthful president of the United States. At present the toughest issues he has to grapple with as US president are the conflict in the Gulf, the situation in Bosnia and the involvement of US troops in Somalia. Mr. Clinton's remarks on the Kashmir problem reflect his inherent sense of justice and fairplay and this approach should herald a more rational perception of the issue by the US. His comment recognises the legitimacy of the Kashmiris' freedom struggle and supports various UN resolutions calling for the exercise of right of self-determination by them. His warning to those defying the international community that the US would act to enforce compliance strengthens the hope that New Delhi would be compelled to see reason. India has let loose a reign of terror in the Valley to suppress a popular uprising by Kashmiris against their systematic genocide. They continue to suffer unprecedented atrocities at the hands of the Indian army and police personnel. The tone and tenor of President Bill Clinton's address also gives one the hope that a reappraisal of the discriminatory US policies towards Islamabad would also be undertaken. The stoppage of aid to Pakistan by Washington over the nuclear issue, while New Delhi continues to flex its nuclear muscle, is another issue the injustice of which should not escape the notice of the new US Administration. It is hoped that the new president would take practical steps to remove the cobwebs of mistrust that has for some time clouded relations between U.S. and Pakistan. This would help open a new chapter to the mutual benefit of the two countries.

## Two Explosions Kill 16, Injure Over 44

*BK2401091193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] Two powerful explosions occurred in two areas of Hyderabad and Latifabad last night. ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN reports that at least 16 people were killed and more than 40 injured, some of them seriously, in these explosions. One explosion occurred in front of a hotel in Latifabad (?unit) number eight, where explosive materials were planted on a motorcycle. Reports say that nine people were killed and 14 injured due to this explosion. The second blast occurred near the Memon Hospital in [words indistinct] area. This explosion was also caused by some explosive material planted on a motorcycle. Seven persons were reported to have been killed and over 30 injured in the blast. The injured in critical condition have been moved to the local hospital. Five bodies have been identified. [Words indistinct] of Hyderabad, (?police) head commissioner and senior police officers visited the affected areas and also the injured at the hospital.

Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has expressed his grief and anguish over the loss of life due to the bomb blasts in Hyderabad. He condemned these heinous acts and asked Sindh Chief Minister Syed Muzaffar Shah to conduct an immediate investigation into the incident and arrest the criminals and give them exemplary punishment. The prime minister also expressed his sincere sympathy with the bereaved families and directed that the injured be provided immediate and appropriate treatment facilities.

### Ethnic Tension Mounts

*BK2501122493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1058 GMT 25 Jan 93*

[Text] Karachi, Jan 25 (AFP)—Tension escalated in Sindh on Monday as the ethnically divided southern province mourned the deaths of 24 people in weekend bomb explosions.

Rival ethnic groups called protests here as Sindh chief minister Muzaffer Hussain Shah described Saturday's bombings in Hyderabad a "deep conspiracy of anti-state elements" while other political leaders condemned the government's failure to maintain law and order.

No one has claimed responsibility for the killings but police suspect the Jeyay Sindhi, a nationalist group opposed to the immigration of Urdu-speaking Biharis from Bangladesh. The group, linked to previous bomb attacks, has maintained silence on the bombings.

Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto called for the government's dismissal because it had "failed in providing security to the people."

The explosions come two weeks after a bomb in the nearby industrial town of Kotri killed 13 and injured 25 in an attack allegedly linked to the repatriation of the Biharis.

The lastest bombings also coincide with the trial of Sindhi nationalists accused of ethnic violence against Urdu speakers three years ago in which some 100 lives were lost.

Troops were called in to the province last May to restore law and order amid bloodshed between Sindhis and Urdu settlers, known as Mohajirs.

Salim Hayder, chairman of Mohajir Ittehad Tehrik (MIT), representing settlers from Bangladesh, called for protests Monday and Tuesday following the blasts in crowded areas of Hyderabad some 130 kilometres (80 miles) north of here.

Azim Ahmed Tariq, chief of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), which speaks for Mohajir settlers from India, said he was surprised that terrorists were able to carry out such "a heinous crime even in the presence of law enforcement agencies."

Altaf Hussain, founder of MQM, who recently resigned as its leader, said in a statement from London that the "explosions were aimed at finding an excuse for extending the duration of an army-led 'operation clean-up' in the province."

The Jeyay Sindhi has called for a day of protest on Tuesday to coincide with a debate in the provincial assembly on the Biharis, who were stranded in Bangladesh when it broke away from Pakistan in 1971.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif pledged last year to resettle the Biharis in northern Punjab province and a first batch of 323—out of an estimated 238,000 Biharis stranded in Bangladesh—arrived on January 10.

Sindhi speakers, worried about erosion of their majority, fear that the Biharis will eventually settle in Sindh, joining the Urdu-speakers who migrated from India after the 1947 partition of the sub-continent.

## Iranian Border Guards, Afghan Smugglers Clash

*BK2201155593 Hong Kong AFP in English 0657 GMT 22 Jan 93*

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, Jan 22 (AFP)—Some 20 Iranian border security personnel and three Afghan drug traffickers were killed in fighting in an area where Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan meet, officials said Friday.

The shoot-out Thursday near Rabat, some 800 kilometers (500 miles) west of Quetta, capital of Baluchistan, was the second clash in two days between Iranian guards and drug smugglers, an official source said.

The earlier battle on Wednesday in the same area left two Iranians killed and three injured after the border security force intercepted a gang of smugglers trying to sneak into Iranian territory, reports said.

Thursday's fighting came after the Iranians using helicopters launched a retaliatory raid on the positions of drug smugglers, who replied with rockets and machinegun fire inflicting heavy casualties, the source said.

Other reports said the smugglers also kidnapped many Iranian personnel while some shells fired from the helicopters hit a Pakistani militia outpost, causing some damage but no casualties.

In Islamabad the Ministry of Foreign Affairs denied reports on Wednesday's clash which said that Iranians had captured smugglers from inside Pakistani territory. The ministry said no attack or firing by Iranian gunships took place in the Pakistani border area Wednesday. No official comment was immediately available about Thursday's clashes.

Iran has reportedly made complaints in the past that armed gangs of smugglers and "counter-revolutionaries" frequently intruded into Iranian territory from sanctuaries on Pakistani soil.

The Iranians had asked for stringent measures by Pakistani authorities to curb the activities of these groups, following a series of incidents last year which reportedly resulted in many casualties and kidnapping of personnel.

A joint border commission has been dealing with the problem of cross-border raids involving smugglers as well as Iranian dissidents and recent reports said it had agreed on extradition of wanted people by either side.

### Iranians Said Kidnapped

*BK2401124693 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 22 Jan 93 p 1*

[Text] Quetta, Jan 21—At least 20 Iranian border security force personnel were killed in an armed clash with Afghan drug traffickers in Jail Rabhat area linking Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan early Thursday, reports reaching from Pakistan bordering town of Taftan said.

The clash occurred when Iranian border security force with the help of helicopters attacked the positions of drug smugglers to avenge Wednesday killing of their two men. The attack deep inside Rabhat, some 45 miles west of Quetta, resulted in killing of three smugglers. However, the smugglers armed with rocket launchers and machine gun retaliated strongly resulting in worst casualties Iranian border security force ever suffered at the hands of smugglers.

As many as 80 security force personnel were also reported kidnapped by the smugglers besides damaging 20 vehicles, report added.

Some shells fired from the helicopters also hit a Pakistani militia outpost inflicting slight structural damage, but no casualty was reported.

However, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad has contradicted a news item appearing in a local daily Thursday under the title "Iran Captured Smugglers From Inside Pakistan," says a handout.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on making enquiries from the Home Department and Frontier Constabulary Balochistan, was informed that no attack and firing by Iranian gunships took place in Pakistani territory.

## Sri Lanka

### Premadasa Sends Felicitations to Bill Clinton

*BK2201114493 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Jan 93*

[Text] President Ranasinghe Premadasa has sent a message of felicitation on the inauguration of Bill Clinton as the 42d President of the United States of America. In his message, the president stated that democratic freedom has been strengthened not only in the political terms, but also in terms of providing equal opportunities for all to share the fruits of economic initiative and enterprise. Extreme [word indistinct] demands stressing the basic concept on which complex societies of rich diversity have founded their national identity and unity. The president noted that the international community has placed its faith in the United Nations to ease the political conflicts and as well to ensure an equitable and rational sharing of the world's depleting resources. Divisions between nations have been exposed not only on ethnic, religious, and communal lines, but also in terms of equitable economic disparities. The president pointed out that the new U.S. President's vision of putting people first reflects his own commitment of empowering the citizens to be all shareholders in the national endeavor. Sri Lanka's program in this direction receives the valuable support of the United States. He added that Sri Lanka and the United States are bound by an abiding commitment to democratic norms. He expressed the confidence that the warm and friendly relations between the two countries would be further strengthened during the term of office of the President, Bill Clinton.

### Colombo Signs Chemical Arms Treaty in Paris

*BK1501123493 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 Jan 93*

[Text] Sri Lanka becomes an original signatory of the convention on the prohibition of development, production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons and their destruction yesterday at the signing ceremony held in Paris. The Sri Lankan Government has actively worked for comprehensive and nondiscriminatory ban on chemical weapons. Sri Lanka is one of the 39 members of the conference on disarmament responsible for drawing up the draft convention. The convention will prohibit the production, acquisition, possession and use of chemical weapons. It will establish a new international regime to enforce the prohibition and to supervise the destruction of all such weapons. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a news release states that with the threat of widespread proliferation and the use of chemical weapons in recent times, the signing of the chemical weapons convention is a landmark in the history of multilateral disarmament in the world. The ambassador for Sri Lanka in Paris, Professor S.K. Hittiarachi [name and title as heard], and Sri Lanka's permanent representative to the United Nations, B.A.B. Gunatilake, in Geneva participated at the signing ceremony of the convention.

## Twenty LTTE Group Leaders Killed in Last 3 Weeks

*BK2101100093 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0747 GMT 21 Jan 93*

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 21 Jan (LANKAPUVATH)—A hard-core LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorist was shot dead by the security forces, south of Kadukkanai in the Batticaloa District, Wednesday [20 January].

A spokesman for the Joint Operations Command told LANKAPUVATH that government troops also shot and wounded a terrorist when they raided an LTTE safe-house Kannankudah in the Batticaloa District on the same day.

Around 20 LTTE group leaders have been killed by troops during the last three weeks considerably weakening the terrorist organisation.

## Colombo Reports LTTE's Charges Against India

*BK2201115693 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Jan 93*

[Text] Sri Lanka's Tamil guerrillas stepped up their attacks on India, accusing it of sea piracy and seeking justice for the death of a top rebel leader last weekend. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE], in a statement, accused New Delhi for the death of top commander Sathasivam Krishnakumar alias Kittu and nine others after their ship sank in (?flames) off the southern Indian coast on Sunday [17 January]. Both Sri Lanka and Indian authorities have said that the LTTE owned the ship. The M.V. Ahad was bringing military hardware and ammunition to their cadres in the Tiger stronghold of Jaffna when it was intercepted. However, the LTTE said Kittu was carrying a Western-backed peace plan to end the dragging ethnic war in Sri Lanka's northeast.

## Clash Between Tamil Guerrillas, Soldiers Leaves 15 Dead

*BK2501004093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1649 GMT 24 Jan 93*

[Text] Colombo, Jan 24 (AFP)—Tamil guerrillas killed 14 soldiers and lost at least one of their own men in a gun battle in northeastern Sri Lanka on Sunday, a military spokesman said.

Dozens of gunmen from the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fired small arms and rocket-propelled grenades during an ambush of an army patrol at Sittaru in the port district of Trincomalee, a military spokesman said.

He said 13 soldiers and an officer were killed, while security forces recovered the body of one of the guerrillas.

"We have recovered only one body of the terrorists at the moment. They may have suffered more casualties, but we have no details. Our troops were on a route-clearing patrol when they were ambushed," the spokesman said.

The latest fighting came as security forces were conducting two small scale operations against LTTE guerrillas in Trincomalee ahead of a visit to the region next week by President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

The LTTE has been leading a violent 20-year-old campaign to establish an independent homeland in Sri Lanka's northeast where some two million Tamils live. Thousands have died in the fighting.